

HEALTH SERVICE DEBATE

Major agrees to meet doctors over reform dispute

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister last night intervened in the growing political dispute over the National Health Service reforms. As Labour stepped up its attacks over hospitals opting out of health service control, Mr Major agreed to meet the British Medical Association to discuss its claims of a crisis.

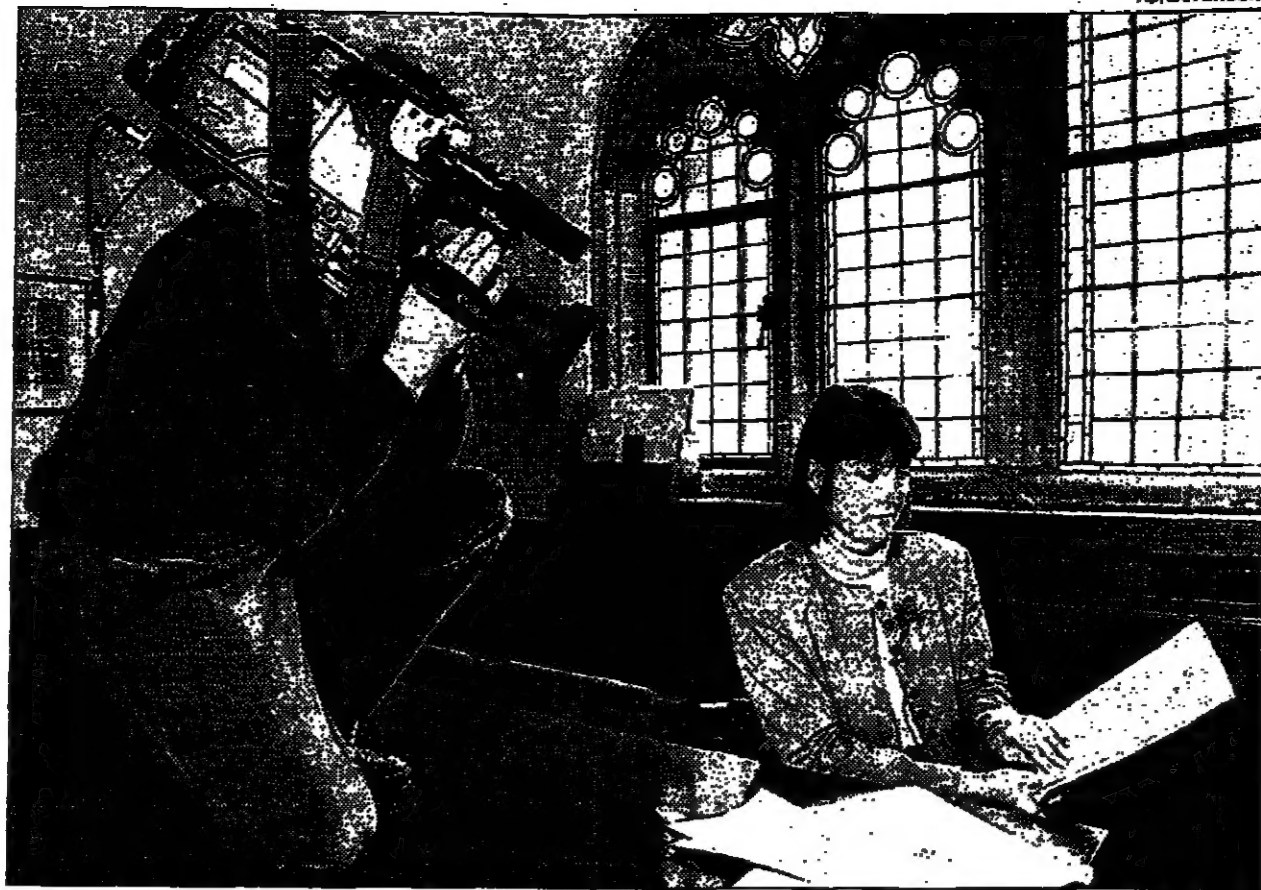
Sources were making clear, however, that at the meeting Mr Major would be backing William Waldegrave, the health secretary, to the hilt. The prime minister's decision to get involved was announced by Mr Waldegrave after he met BMA leaders in Whitehall for what were described as "very open and frank" discussions.

Mr Waldegrave rejected a BMA offer to drop its opposition to the changes already in place if in return the government halted the second

wave of opt-out hospitals and budget-holding family doctors, who have powers to buy hospital services for their patients. The health secretary was later asked what a meeting between the BMA and Mr Major would achieve. Mr Waldegrave said the prime minister might be able to persuade the association to abandon its campaign against the reforms, although he rather doubted it.

He emphasised that the health service was "not falling to bits". He said: "We will continue with the reforms. They are already beginning to lead to benefits and better management and care of patients."

Earlier the Labour party continued its attack on the health service reforms by producing two more leaked letters showing evidence of "a



Health in focus: the Labour MP Harriet Harman with the leaked letters at yesterday's press conference

two-tier health service" and launching a campaign against the second wave of health service trusts.

A letter from Ken Grant, district general manager at City and Hackney health authority, sent to senior clinicians at St Bartholomew's hospital, said that the hospital would have to compete for

money from GP budget-holders even if it meant admitting their patients more quickly.

The hospital needed to attract business from GP budget-holders for two reasons. First, if they previously sent patients there, this money would be built into the hospital's revenue assumptions. Second, any extra work would give the

hospital more money to spend on improving services for patients.

A second letter from the Royal Liverpool Children's hospital, Alder Hey, shows that that hospital has agreed to special deals for one-off cases from all districts in the Mersey region and Clwydd and Gwynedd health authorities to en-

sure that children are treated within 12 months. However, it has told North Manchester health authority that it cannot guarantee treating any children that are on the current waiting lists in the next financial year, under the normal block contracts.

Leading article, page 19

Cash figures conceal many contradictions

Jill Sherman looks behind the political propaganda at where the cash has gone in National Health Service spending

The health service is at the top of the political agenda again, and politicians have started bending around statistics to try to show whether the National Health Service has enough money, whether it has been underfunded in the past, and how much it needs in the future.

With the furore over job cuts and service reductions, purportedly as a result of the NHS reforms, Labour appeared to have the upper hand. However, William Waldegrave, the health secretary, deftly seized the initiative yesterday morning when he accused Labour of shooting itself in the foot over its plans for health spending.

Neil Kinnock suggested in a speech on Wednesday night that spending would increase by 2.5 per cent a year, keeping pace with planned economic growth. Mr Waldegrave pointed out that this would mean a decline in spending on health. The Tories had put 3.7 per cent growth into the NHS in each of the last four years.

Robin Cook, the Opposition health spokesman, spent most of yesterday arguing that no precise figure could be put on what Labour would spend. It is true that the government has put more into the health service overall as the country has grown wealthier. In 1979 total spending on the NHS in the United Kingdom was about \$9 billion, which rose to over \$27 billion by 1990. Growth as measured by the gross domestic product also rose each year but at a slightly slower rate than NHS spending. The biggest increase in NHS spending was in 1980 when inflation was running at 18 per cent and the health service received 27 per cent more.

This was mainly channelled into review body pay awards for nurses and doctors following the 1979 winter of discontent. NHS spending as a proportion of GDP rose from 4.5 per cent to 5.2 per cent. During the last five of six years - however - this has dropped back to between 4.8 and 5 per cent. The tightest squeeze on spending was in the early to mid-1980s where

figures provided by the British Medical Association show that if NHS inflation is taken into account, health service spending has only risen about 20 per cent since the Tories came into office in 1979, as against the 50 per cent claimed by the health department. Figures from the social services select committee show that if NHS inflation is taken into account, spending on the hospital and community sector fell by 0.1 per cent in 1984/85 and by 0.1 per cent in 1989/90.

Health organisations also argue that at least 2 per cent is needed each year just to maintain service levels. If these figures are accepted, the health service has done much worse than Mr Waldegrave makes out.



New dog curbs on way

Proposals to strengthen the law on the control of dogs are to be put before Parliament this summer, the leader of the Commons told MPs yesterday (Bob Morgan writes). John MacGregor was responding to demands for action after the attack on a Lincoln man by two pit bull terriers this week.

Mr MacGregor said: "Because we recognised there may be a need to extend the law further, we issued a consultation paper last year which contained a number of specific proposals. In response, a diverse range of views had been received. 'The home secretary will bring forward his proposals this summer.' The issue was raised in the Commons by Greville Janner, Labour MP for Leicester West, who said such dogs should be banned. The injured Lincoln man suffered severe facial injuries.

L-test fee rise Bank raid falls

Learner drivers must pay more to take tests on Saturdays from next month. The Saturday charge will be £35 while a weekday car test will go up from £19.50 to £21.50. The Driving Standards Agency said. Fees for a lorry or bus test will rise from £45 to £48 with a Saturday fee of £75, while a weekday accompanied motorcycle test goes up by £2.50 to £28.50. The Saturday charge will be £44.

Final comment

Sir Peregrine Worsthorne, the editor of the comment section of *The Sunday Telegraph* and a self-avowed "dyed in the wool reactionary", is to retire to write his memoirs. Sir Peregrine, aged 68, who is due to marry Lady Lucinda Lambton this weekend, will surrender control of the comment pages to Trevor Grove, the editor, on September 1.

Chess leader

Alexander Halifman, the former Russian who now represents Germany, has seized the sole lead in the City of London international chess challenge. In the sixth round he defeated William Watson, the London grandmaster, in just 22 moves to take the lead.

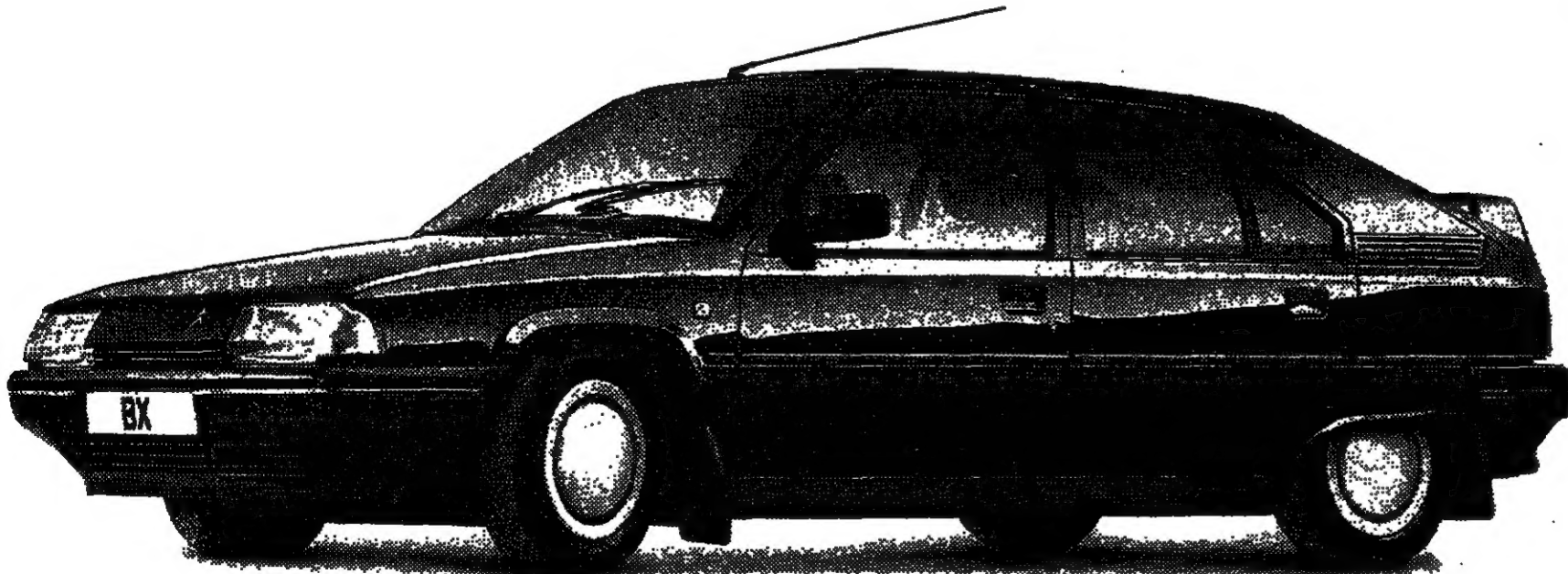
CORRECTION

The young violinist Sarah Chang, pictured in yesterday's *Times*, played for the Duchess of Kent, not the Duchess of York as stated.

Boxing: The Times yesterday incorrectly stated that the British boxer, Nigel Benn, had won the WBC world title. In fact, he had won the WBA title. The correct result was: Benn vs. Hagström, WBA world title fight, Benn wins by unanimous decision.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY MAY 10 1991

Sinn Fein publicity chief jailed for role in holding informer

By TIM JONES

DANNY Morrison, the former publicity director for Sinn Fein, was jailed yesterday for eight years for his part in falsely imprisoning Alexander Lynch, an RUC special branch informer.

Morrison, aged 38, turned and waved to supporters in the public gallery in Belfast crown court after being sentenced by Sir Brian Hutton, the Northern Ireland Lord Chief Justice.

Expert at justifying IRA outrages, Morrison's incarceration will be a serious blow to Sinn Fein, the political wing of the movement.

Sir Brian said it was possible that Morrison, who had been cleared of conspiracy to murder, played a much more sinister role in the unlawful imprisonment of Mr Lynch. The Crown had not been able to prove he visited the house where Mr Lynch was being interrogated to arrange for him to be murdered.

Morrison, Sir Brian said, had gone to the house to

Playing a game in which to lose is to die

By TIM JONES

ALEXANDER Lynch was a prime player in a dangerous intelligence game — one in which, once found out, there was only one punishment: vicious interrogation and a bullet in the back of the head.

Lynch, whose double life led to the imprisonment of Danny Morrison, was lucky. Now living overseas with a new identity, he is one of the few to have survived an IRA "court martial".

Although now worthless to his former police handlers, who gave him the codename Turner, Lynch was able to render them one final service before his exile. His experience at the hands of his captors gave police an invaluable insight into the interrogation methods of the IRA. One captor claimed to have been trained in Libya and said he was looking forward to breaking Lynch. He succeeded, for Lynch, sobbing and hysterical, made a full confession.

How the police and soldiers who rescued him found out where he was being held is a mystery that will cause the IRA to search for yet another informer in their midst.

To Sir Brian Hutton, Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, Lynch was a man of no moral worth. To the police, however, the man who loved fast cars and good living was worth, in his final year, more than £70,000.

That sum reflected the fact that Lynch, a member of an IRA intelligence gathering unit, was regarded as an important informant. It also

reflected the hazards for police in intelligence gathering. In the ghettos of Belfast and on housing estates in many other large towns, everyone knows everyone else and the gunmen rule like Mafia godfathers, dispensing favours or fearful punishment. In those places, a strange face is recognised, car numbers noted and the local IRA people informed, often by children.

To overcome that problem, the police and other security forces use the latest electronic surveillance equipment to "track" the enemy, but there is no real substitute for a double agent.

For that role, Alexander Lynch was well suited. Since the age of 14, when he joined the IRA's junior wing, Lynch, now 33, knew no other life. He was "turned" by the police into a double agent on his release from prison in 1983 after serving four years of a 12-year sentence for possessing firearms and explosives.

He then began his dangerous double life, which frustrated many IRA murder attempts and led to the arrest of several gunmen who are now behind bars. To maintain his cover, Lynch took part in some IRA operations, although he claimed that on at least one occasion he neutralised bombs he was planting.

A senior police officer said: "It is impossible to say how many people survived because of Lynch, a dozen, probably more. He was enormously valuable to us and we are going to miss him terribly."

Sir Brian Morrison may have played sinister role

offence. When you made your house available to the IRA for a second time you must have known there was a definite possibility the man may have been murdered, but that did not stop you. What you did was deeply evil."

Three other men found guilty of the false imprisonment of Mr Lynch were also sentenced. Gerard Hodgkins, aged 31, was jailed for 12 years, James O'Carroll, 28, and Daniel Caldwell, 34, were jailed for 10 years each and John Anthony Murray, 40, for eight years. All four had Belfast addresses.

Vera Martin, aged 45, wife of James Martin, was jailed for three and a half years and their son James was given a six-month suspended sentence. Two other defendants also received suspended sentences.

At Mr Costa's north London home his family said his relationship with Mr Kinnock was purely friendship. "This whole thing is silly. My father is a completely honest and good man," Peter Costa, aged 19, said. "He is trying to sort things out, trying to salvage what he can from the recession." Dino Costa, aged 20,

Kinnock relationship was purely friendship, family says

Police may try to have Costa extradited

By STEWART TENDLER AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU

SCOTLAND Yard's fraud squad is considering applying for the extradition of Charilaos Costa, wealthy clothing manufacturer and friend of Neil Kinnock, who is living in Cyprus after the collapse of his British interests.

The squad began an investigation into the affairs of Mr Costa earlier this year, assigning a detective to examine allegations surrounding £7 million to £10 million. It was not until this week after press enquiries that the Yard discovered Mr Costa was linked to Mr Kinnock.

The squad yesterday continued preparations to submit a report to the Crown Prosecution Service on the case. The report might recommend extradition proceedings be started against Mr Costa who has been in Cyprus since February. The Yard said that the fraud investigation involved allegations of false accounting and obtaining property by deception by CHS Holdings, a Costa company. Two men, one the manager of a NatWest branch in London's West End, have been charged in connection with the investigation.

Reshmi Patel was arrested in March and charged with obtaining property by deception. Last month he was remanded on bail until July. Raymond Mitchell, the bank manager, was charged with false accounting and was also bailed to return to court in July.

As Yard officers met yesterday to consider the case, however, an accountant acting as receiver for four companies controlled by Mr Costa said that the businessman had no knowledge of any investigation. "He rang this morning and he denied the allegations," Panos Eliades said. "He said he did not know anything about the Fraud Squad and would be returning to this country."

Mr Eliades, receiver for the companies Peter Martin, Julius, Jemina and Cornet, said he added that neither he nor any member of his accountancy company had been contacted by the squad.

At Mr Costa's north London home his family said his relationship with Mr Kinnock was purely friendship. "This whole thing is silly. My father is a completely honest and good man," Peter Costa, aged 19, said. "He is trying to sort things out, trying to salvage what he can from the recession." Dino Costa, aged 20,



Friendly meeting: Mr Kinnock and his wife Glenys with Mr Costa and his daughter at a factory opening

another son, said: "We know the Kinnocks but this is nothing to do with business. It is a purely friendly relationship." Mr Costa came to Britain in the 1960s and founded a growing clothing manufacturing business taking over several well-known clothing companies. He negotiated loans with Union Discount, the Cyprus Popular Bank, NatWest and the English Trust.

This year, the empire began to crumble. A receiver from Ernst and Young moved into three companies in March. Another three companies are in receivership and others reported to be in liquidation. Union Discount said the police were called in to make investigations a month ago. The company is owed £7 million by companies belonging to Mr Costa. Money was advanced against

invoices showing business in hand but cheques against the invoices worth £1 million have not been honoured. At the former headquarters of the Costa fashion business at Gor-ray House in Enfield, north London, all that is left is a parking bay with the letters C Costa. Security guards at the office block said even that was about to be removed. The building, once the main factory for Mr Costa's business, is now a business centre. A spokesman said that the company owned by Mr Costa had now been sold.

In Cyprus yesterday influential friends expressed amazement that Mr Costa's affairs were being investigated. He is known on the island as a generous sponsor of the Greek Cypriot community in London who also uses his contacts with Labour politicians in Britain

to publicise the problem of the divided island.

"He is one of the great leaders of our community in London," Andreas Christofides, a former education minister, said. "He has great contacts with the Labour party in London and gives money for Cypriot activities in London." Mr Costa is also close to the small socialist party in Cyprus, known as Edekl. He has not contributed funds directly to Edekl in Nicosia, but might have contributed to the London branch, a party spokesman said. A leading Edekl politician said: "Charilaos is a very likeable man and I'd be very surprised if any of these allegations are true." Mr Costa was not answering journalists' calls yesterday but his secretary said he would make a statement soon.

Statement led to wide publicity

By PHILIP WEBSTER CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Kinnock's detailed statement on Wednesday ensured far wider coverage of his links with Charilaos Costa in yesterday's newspapers than might have been the case.

The Sun broke the story in its early editions and Mr Kinnock's statement meant that other newspapers were certain to follow it up. His office had learnt of The Sun's intention to report on a friendship between him and Mr Costa when the newspaper rang to say it had a series of questions for Mr Kinnock.

The detailed nature of the questioning indicated that the newspaper was planning a substantial story. Mr Kinnock and his advisers knew that a statement might encourage other papers to follow The Sun but decided that it would remove any question-marks from a relationship about which he had nothing to hide. As all newspapers have made plain, there is no question of any impropriety.

Mr Kinnock's advisers judged that a frank statement would be the best way of ensuring that the story did not drag on. As the prolonged interest in the prime minister's O-levels showed, failure to publish the most innocuous information can fuel damaging speculation.



Waiting game: the press outside Mr Costa's north London home yesterday

Famous friendships that turned awkward

By JOE JOSEPH

FLEET Street's scandal-mongers could not turn up even a Broadstairs piano-tuner who might once have pressed Edward Heath for an endorsement. Alec Douglas-Home barely remembers being prime minister let alone bending an ear towards shady businessmen. But as for the rest of the recent keyholders of 10 Downing Street, none has got away without being smeared by association with some of Britain's pushier entrepreneurs. By having his name linked to Charilaos Costa's, Neil Kinnock has got off to a flying start for a would-be prime minister.

In most cases, the businessmen who later proved an embarrassment did a lot of wooing and signing of cheques to party funds before being allowed to get close enough to smell the prime minister's aftershave. The exception was Mrs Thatcher. She didn't wear aftershave and she often

ran across her most embarrassing businessmen friends over her own family breakfast table.

Like Halley's Comet, Mark Thatcher was sighted regularly and ominously over Downing Street, only more frequently. He continues to orbit over Mayfair trying to set up the Thatcher Foundation and sell mummy's memoirs, even though he has alienated nearly all Mrs Thatcher's richest City friends.

Mark landed his mother in hot water when he pocketed a commission for consultancy work for Cementation, a British construction company that bid successfully for a £300 million contract in Oman. Mrs Thatcher was accused of using her influence with Oman to get Cementation the job. Mark's commission was banked in an account to which Denis Thatcher was co-signatory. Denis's name popped up again when he wrote on Downing Street notepaper to Nicholas Edwards, then Welsh

secretary, about alleged foot-dragging over a planning application made by a firm in which he was involved.

With family members like those, Mrs Thatcher had little to fret about even with business friends like Abdul Shamji, the Ugandan Asian caught up in a court case resulting from the collapse of Johnson Matthey Bankers. Anyway, Downing Street denied any close friendship and said Mrs Thatcher had only bumped into Mr Shamji at receptions, perhaps during square dances. But Mrs Thatcher had once visited his house, and Mr Shamji went to see Norman Tebbit in hospital after the Brighton bomb.

James Callaghan came a slight cropper with Sir Julian Hodge, one of the men behind the Commercial Bank of Wales. Callaghan was on the bank's board, although not in office. Hodge's business life started to turn controversial in the early 1970s when the Hodge Group, which dealt in second mortgages, was linked to but

not directly involved in pyramid selling through a scheme called Holiday Magic. The punters who got taken for a ride were mainly West Indians and Asians in the Midlands.

But the Grand Old Man of shame by association was Harold Wilson. There was Lord Kagan, who was catapulted into the House of Lords by the Gannex-raincoat-wearing Wilson and then jailed for 10 months for defrauding his own textile company. Then there was Sir Eric Miller, the property tycoon, who shot himself after being kicked off the board of the Peachey Property Corporation and running up more heavy debts than he could cope with. And lastly there was Robert Milne, the Midlands businessman sent to jail after being found guilty of forging a letter purporting to give Wilson's backing to a land deal. He had bought the land, previously used as slagheaps, from Tony Field, who was — guess who? — Lady Falkender's brother.

Maguire case delay for fresh evidence

THE Court of Appeal hearing the Maguire family's appeals yesterday granted an adjournment until Monday to allow the family legal team to investigate the relevance of a Home Office document that came to light only days ago.

The document came into the hands of the lawyers after a scientist involved in the Birmingham Six case was interviewed last week and told of its existence. It could bring a dramatic end to the appeals against convictions of running an IRA bomb factory.

The Maguire Seven were jailed 15 years ago for possessing explosives. Their convictions were based on evidence from Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment scientists that they had handled nitroglycerine before their arrests in December 1974.

Mr Anthony Arlidge, QC, for the Maguires, told the appeal court in London yesterday that the new document indicated that tests carried out by the establishment in May 1977 showed that the ether contained in hand-test kits "was contaminated with a substance which could have been nitroglycerine". It also indicated that the way in which the kits were packaged in cardboard boxes could "also have resulted in contamination".

The Maguire Seven were swabbed by police using hand test-kits after their arrest and then the swabs were sent to the establishment for testing for nitroglycerine.

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith told Mr Arlidge the court was prepared to give him until Monday "to reappraise the situation" but he said the court might not necessarily give leave for further evidence to be called if it involved long delay, unless it appeared to be "cogent and relevant".

Video releases put firms on TV news

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

COMPANIES are getting corporate messages across on television news bulletins by sending producers free ready-to-broadcast footage.

Video news releases, or VNRs, have been broadcast without labelling on the BBC's Breakfast Time, the 24-hour Sky News, ITN's News At Ten and local bulletins on TVS and LWT in the past six months, prompting fears in the television industry that hidden sponsorship may come to compromise broadcasters' independence.

Visnews, the international television news agency, which now makes VNRs for corporate clients, says in a press release: "VNRs are an extremely successful method for gaining publicity and highly cost-effective television exposure." It adds: "Ask most television heads of news if they use VNRs and the answer will be no — but ask the programme editors and they'll

probably tell you they use them all the time."

British Telecom hired Visnews Corporate Television, a subsidiary company, to produce a VNR on the 25th anniversary of the Telecom Tower, which was sent to Breakfast Time and used with a story about charges for directory enquiries. Last year, News At Ten ran a VNR from Sea Containers showing its Seacat vessel breaking a transatlantic record. Sky News, BBC South and TVS used a VNR showing the Seacat passing under Tower Bridge to be presented with a trophy.

Claudia Milne, director of the Campaign for Quality Television, said: "If such footage [VNR film] is used, it should be clear to the viewer that it is publicity material."

Steve Garvey, corporate television manager at Visnews, said it refused to make VNRs that were not newsworthy and often rejected companies

Armed police in high-speed cars are to patrol London

By OUR CRIME CORRESPONDENT

TRAINED firearms officers in high-speed police patrol cars fitted with secure armoured will begin patrolling London this summer to provide a 24-hour rapid response to firearms incidents, Scotland Yard said yesterday.

The units are part of a plan for a smaller, better-trained group of officers authorised to carry guns. At least 14 other forces have similar units, and Nottinghamshire has had them for ten years.

In London, 140 officers selected and trained by the Yard's PT17 firearms unit will provide three-man crews for Rover 827 patrol cars. The

cars will carry two Heckler and Koch 9mm sub-machine guns firing single rounds, three automatic pistols, and body armour. The crews will patrol as ordinary officers, but their main aim will be to contain any shooting incident until officers from the 50 within PT17's top grade arrive.

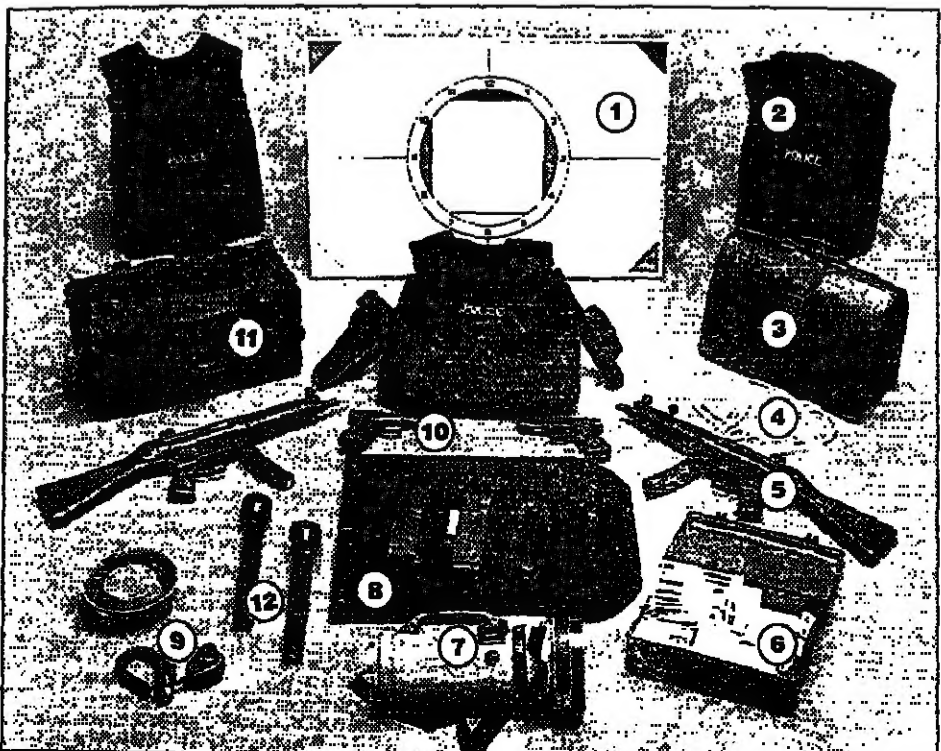
According to Scotland Yard, between three and five cars will be on patrol at any time from the beginning of July. They will not be used for pre-arranged firearms operations. The Yard said that the units would be alerted for any incident that called for an armed response.

The officers will normally patrol unarmed and will need radio authorisation from an

officer equivalent to at least assistant chief constable to open the armoury. The records of officers joining the unit will be closely vetted.

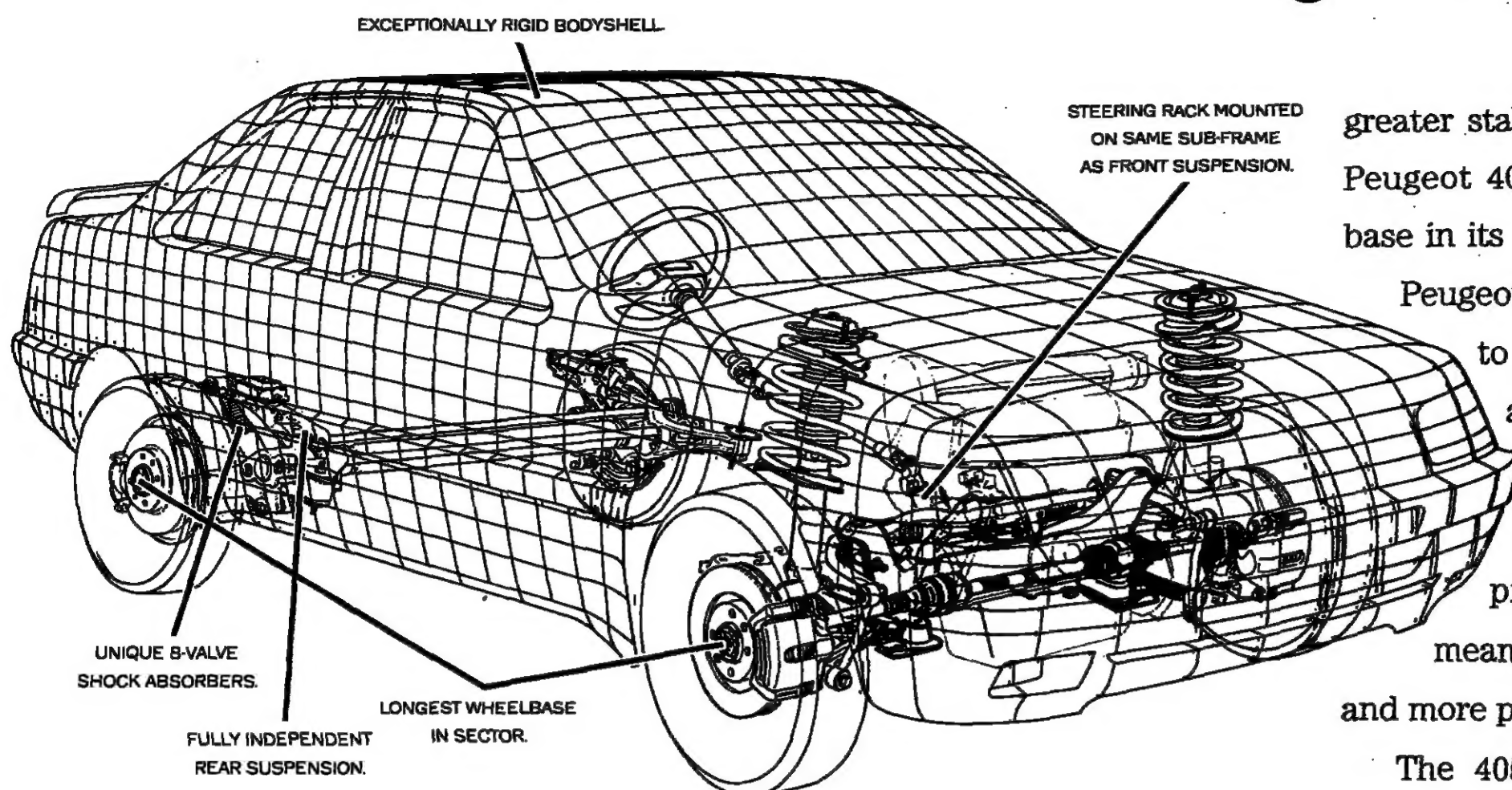
Planning for the units began after the Hungerford massacre in 1987, in which 17 people died, underlined the difficulty of getting armed officers rapidly to a shooting.

Equipment carried by the crews will include (right): 1. planning board for positioning officers at the scene; 2. body armour; 3. briefcase; 4. plastic handcuffs; 5. Heckler and Koch MP5 carbine; 6. first-aid kit; 7. spotlight; 8. ballistic shield; 9. load hauler; 10. Glock pistol; 11. armoured bag for confiscated weapons; 12. torch.



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Scientists call for outdated A-levels to be scrapped

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

A-LEVELS prevent teenagers staying in full-time education or training and are failing even the brightest students, according to some leading scientists. In a report published yesterday they challenged the government to abandon the exam as the gold standard of education.

"It depresses me enormously that students from the high echelon of education spend two years in trammels and then leave with nothing to show for it," said Roger Blin-Stoyle, president of the Institute of Physics. "In my own subject, 25 per cent of students fail the A-level. This is no way to organise education. It is an unsupportable system."

Professor Blin-Stoyle was speaking at the launch of the Royal Society's proposals for a radical reform of education for 16 to 19-year-olds in order to improve staying-on rates, which are among the lowest in the world. Only about a third of the age group is in full-time education in Britain.

The Royal Society report said that there should be parity of esteem between academic and vocational courses and proposed a single qualification embracing all courses, available to students over 16, in a scheme very similar to that proposed by the Labour party last week. The government's proposals are due later this month.

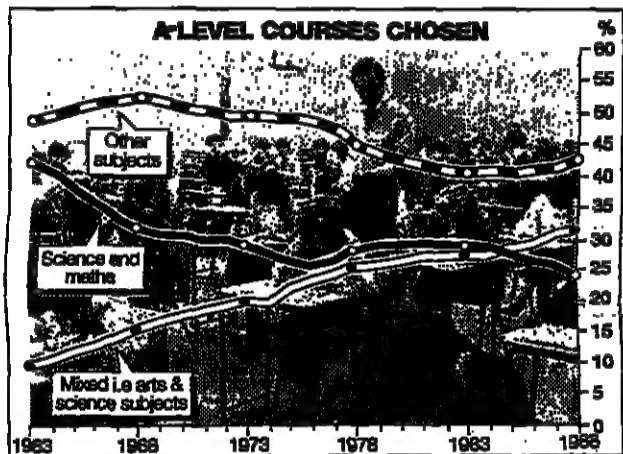
"Scientists need to broaden their basic knowledge and the large number of people, many of them in important positions, who know nothing about science need to improve their

scientific knowledge," said Sir Leslie Crombie, chairman of the working party and professor of chemistry at Nottingham University. He added: "The present A-levels are not a gold standard and the government will be more isolated than ever if it retains them."

A-levels were out-dated and responsible for the damaging divide between arts and science, and were largely to blame for Britain's poor record of educating young people beyond 16 and the poor status of job-related study, he said.

Edwyn James, a former deputy headmaster and member of the society's working party, said that the government would have to consider widening A-levels beyond the present three considered essential for university entry. The society is recommending a broader based A-level course, covering between five and six subjects. "There must be other routes to university. There is an untapped population who do not have A levels who would do well at university. A-levels do not do a good job for enough people and we will have to find another way of doing it," the report said.

Taking a combination of courses, students would be able to take the two-year advanced diploma, equivalent to A-levels, or a new one year advanced certificate. "The one-year certificate will allow students to leave the system with honour, either going on into more training or employment," said Professor Blin-Stoyle.



Schools chided for 'tedious' lessons

By OUR EDUCATION EDITOR

TOO many pupils are struggling through history or geography lessons that are unplanned and unco-ordinated, according to a school inspectors' report published yesterday.

The report, on lessons in history, geography and religious education for 9 to 13-year-olds in 26 schools during 1989-90, said that there was a marked variation between schools on the amount of time devoted to the humanities, and in some primary and middle schools it varied from year to year. There was also a shortage of appropriately qualified staff in some middle and high schools, and of in-service training in all schools.

In primary schools, geography was "poorly served". The least successful work in history was when "what purported to be history" was grafted onto science.

In learning about habitat, pollution and the food chain, for example, some pupils used "excessively difficult texts" to find out why particular creatures might have become extinct. Some of the work appeared to be meaningless to

the children and a failure to consider the historical objectives to be taught resulted in them having gained only superficial knowledge.

In middle schools, pupils often had little purposeful contact with either their teacher or other pupils. "In these lessons, bored pupils proceeded tediously, copying undemanding material from texts which seemed to remain a mystery to them," the inspectors said.

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, said: "I am concerned at the finding that all too often these courses were not well planned and their objectives were unclear. Pupils on such courses simply did not learn enough about the individual subjects - mainly history and geography."

"It is important that head teachers, teachers and school governors should now consider carefully what the inspectors have said about humanities courses. The key point is that such courses should be clearly based on history and geography and the new national curriculum requirements."

Guinness wins food award by a head

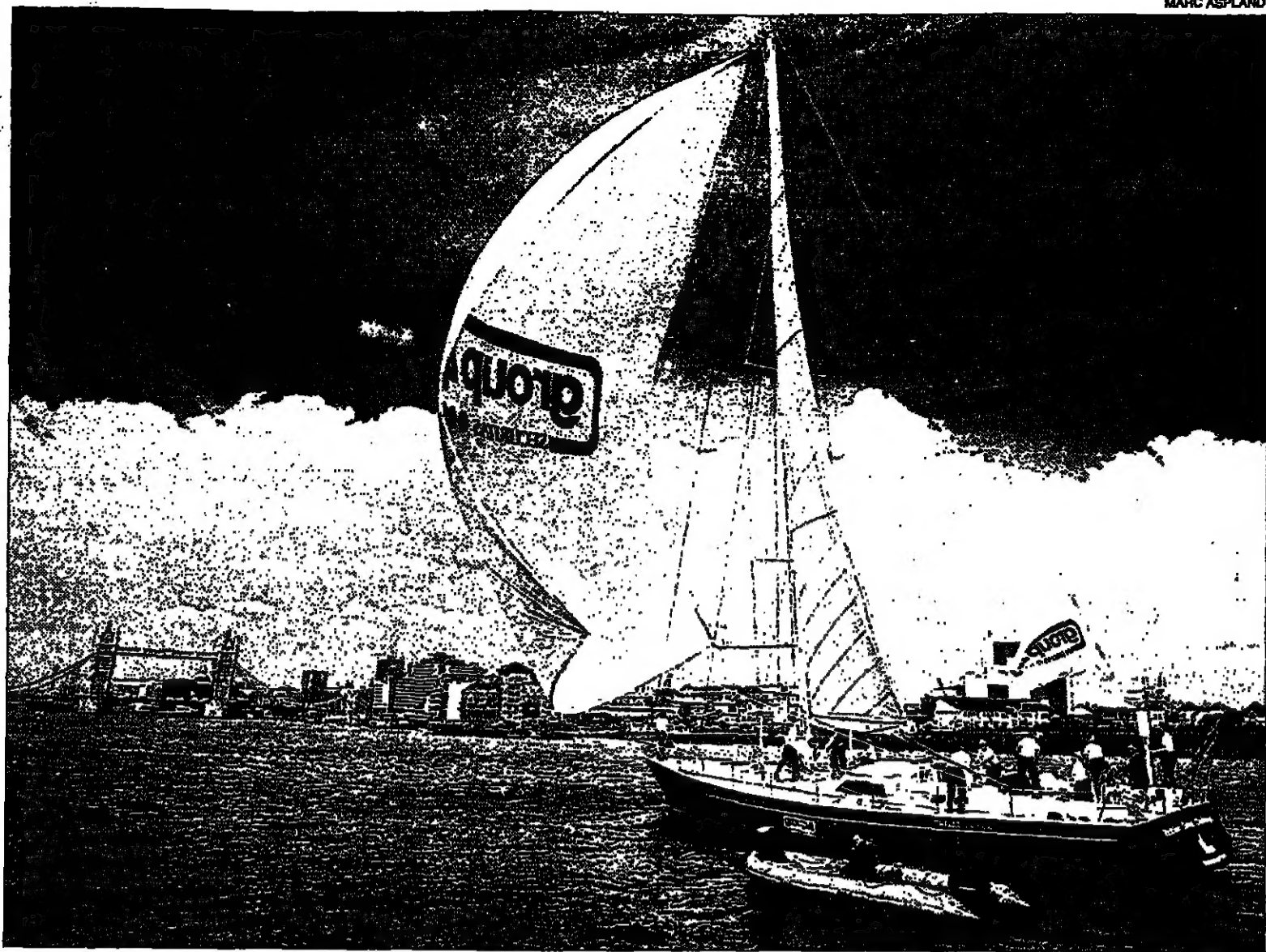
By ROBIN YOUNG

THE most important new food product last year was draught Guinness in a can, it was announced yesterday. The home-drawn stout, which took four years and £5 million to develop and which depends on a capsule of nitrogen and carbon dioxide inside the can to achieve its creamy-headed effect, won the title in close competition with PG Instant Tea, which is made by brewing PG blend tea and then freeze drying it.

The awards, presented by the trade journal *Food Processing*, also singled out Marks & Spencer, a company until recently best-known for underpants and brassieres, as

having contributed most to the British food industry in the past 60 years. The company has only 5 per cent of the food market but has taken a commanding lead in the fashionable cook-chill field.

The advertising campaign of the year was Tesco's featuring Dudley Moore's free-range chicken hunt through France. Derwent Valley Foods, which makes the Philas Fogg snacks, was chosen as food company of the year. It may be food for thought that the brainwave in creating this £18 million turnover company was to market snacks for adults, and to charge twice as much for them.



Meeting the challenge: the flagship of a fleet of ten identical yachts making her Thames debut yesterday. The 67ft yachts will race around the world against prevailing winds in next year's British Steel Challenge, masterminded by Chay Blyth, who made the voyage solo 21 years ago

Sale of castle 'bad deal for taxpayer'

THE sale of Herstmonceux castle, the former home of the Royal Greenwich Observatory, which was criticised by the National Audit Office for failing to achieve more money, came under renewed attack from a Commons committee yesterday (Christopher Warman writes).

The castle in East Sussex was sold in 1988 by the Science and Engineering Research Council for £8.1 million after the observatory moved to Cambridge. Offers of £9.25 million and £14 million had been rejected.

In a report published yesterday, the public accounts committee said that the council's efforts to establish the financial standing of bidders were "insufficiently rigorous" given the potential gains.

The committee said it was "not convinced that the council obtained the maximum selling price having regard to the bids received" and added that those concerned with selling public assets needed to act with imagination and determination to get the best deal for taxpayers.

The castle was sold to James Developments, a leisure group, but last year was back on the market at £17 million to £20 million when a conference centre scheme failed.

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Smokers 12 times more likely to have a stroke, study says

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE risk of stroke is far higher among cigarette smokers than has been previously recognised, according to a study in the *British Medical Journal*. The study shows that of almost 8,000 middle-aged men in 24 British towns some smokers are up to 12 times more likely to have a stroke than non-smokers.

More than 70,000 people die from a stroke in Britain each year, a third of them within three weeks of an attack. Another 30,000 are permanently disabled, and the cost of care and treatment of sufferers is at least £550

million a year. The eight-year study by Gerald Shaper, professor of clinical epidemiology, and colleagues at the Royal Free Hospital medical school, Hampstead, north London, shows that men who smoke and have high blood pressure are most at risk.

"A large proportion of strokes should be preventable by controlling blood pressure and stopping smoking," Professor Shaper said. "That cigarette smoking is of considerable importance in stroke now seems undeniable and the conclusion that the best advice which can be given to patients

with mild hypertension is that they should not smoke seems to be wholly justified. Stroke should rank more prominently among the consequences of cigarette smoking."

The study, funded by the Chest, Heart and Stroke Association and the British Heart Foundation, suggests that giving up smoking reduces the risk, because former smokers appear to be no more vulnerable to the condition than non-smokers. "Former cigarette smokers in this study and in other studies have the same risk as men who have never smoked, and thus giving up smoking is of great importance in reducing the risk," Professor Shaper said.

The study says that prevention would also be aided by encouraging overweight people with high blood pressure to lose weight, and by a reduction in alcohol intake among heavy drinkers, whose risk of a stroke is up to four times higher than the average. Two billion people are at risk of malaria, and the mosquito-borne parasites that cause the disease are becoming increasingly resistant to drugs, the World Health Organisation said in a report yesterday.

The report co-incides with a study in *The Lancet* today in which an international team of researchers recommends that a widely used combination of drugs should be abandoned because it has become ineffective. "The immediate future for anti-malarial therapy appears grim... new drugs are desperately needed," the doctors say. The journal, in a comment on the study, says: "In the war against malaria, man is in retreat."

As many as two million people worldwide are killed every year by the disease, and another 110 million contract it. Most of the deaths are among children in Africa.

The World Health Organisation, which in the 1950s said that it would wipe out malaria within five years, said the disease was running out of control in many parts of the world. Although several malaria vaccines are undergoing trials, none is expected to be available before the end of the century.

Haemophiliac Aids children to share £1.5m

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PAYMENTS totalling £1.5 million were approved by the High Court yesterday to children who were among 1,200 haemophiliacs who contracted the Aids virus after receiving infected blood products during National Health Service treatment.

Thirty-four children were infected with the virus while the parents or guardians of another 13 died after becoming infected. The move clears the way for out-of-court payments of £21,500 to £60,500 to more than 150 other infants. Mr Justice Ognall also insisted on a speedy hearing, by the third week in June, to approve details of offers to 800 adult victims.

The judge, who said that he wanted the speediest possible settlement of the remaining cases, approved payments of £21,500 to the 34 infected children. The 13 bereaved children will share in a payment of £60,500 to their families. Two mental health patients will receive £23,500 and £21,500.

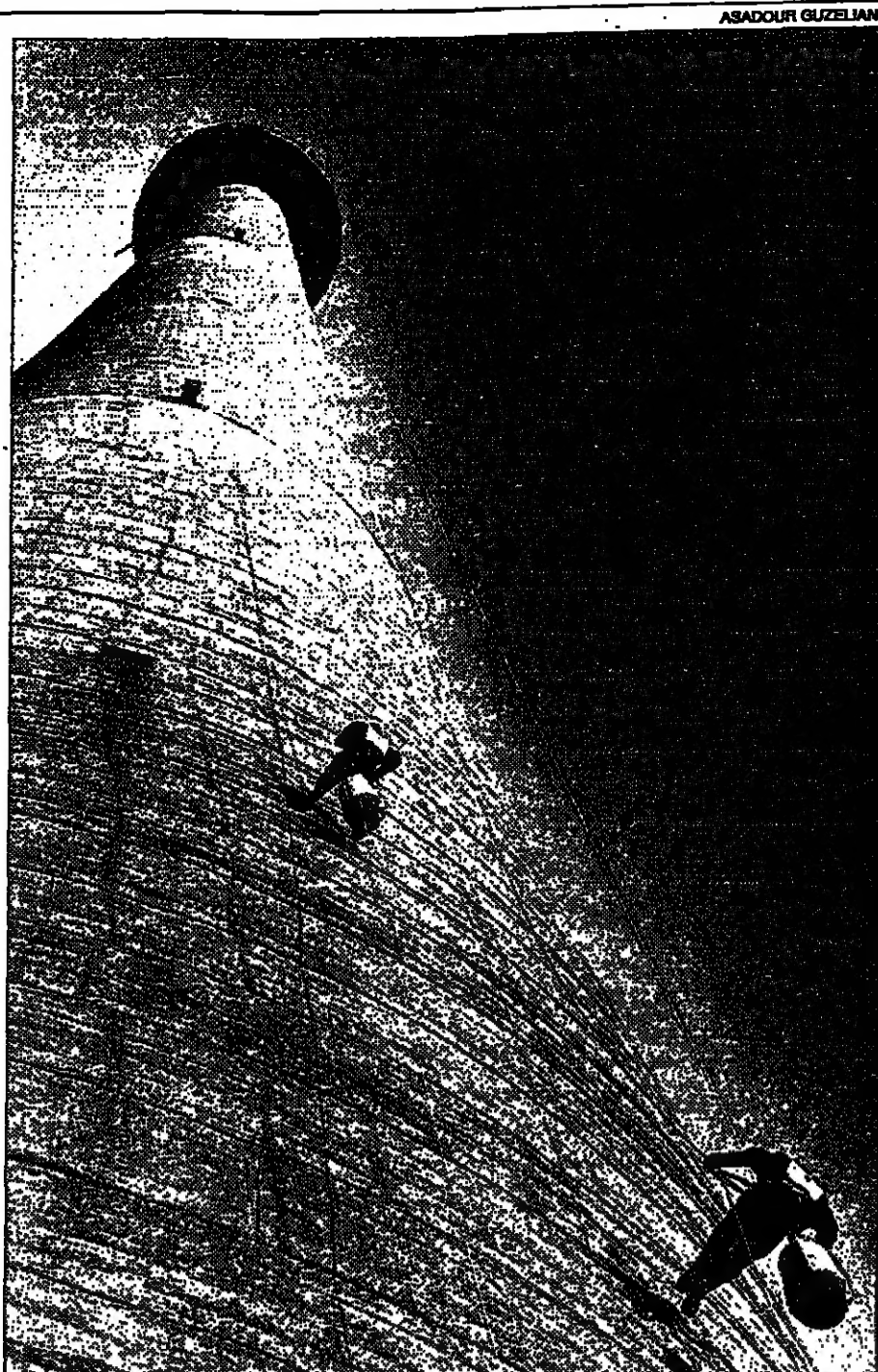
Of the 1,200 haemophiliacs infected, about 210 have developed Aids and more than 140 have died. The government agreed to pay the

outstanding legal costs of the 962 claimants who sued the health department for damages, on condition that they abandoned their action.

Mark Mildred, solicitor for some of the haemophiliacs, said: "After a considerable period of time negotiating over the details, the formal offers have now been made and accepted by all parties. The adult claimants do not need their offers approved by the court but the hearing in June will provide a chance for both sides to explain in open court why they reached the settlement."

Full details of the bulk of the payments will be made public at the June hearing. Provisional estimates of £60,500 for each of 293 married haemophiliacs with children would appear to be in line with yesterday's announcement.

Further estimates include payments of £32,000 to each of 214 married but childless couples and £23,500 for 533 single men. A further £23,500 could be available for 25 infected partners of haemophiliacs and £2,000 for each of the 150 wives of haemophiliacs who have already died.



That falling feeling: Phil Barber, aged 31, and David Griffiths, aged 28, both of Staffordshire, smashing the world abseiling record by descending from the top of Britain's tallest television transmitter. The two men took just over four minutes to drop 878ft to the foot of Emley Moor mast in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. The previous record was for an 850ft descent at the Drax power station in North Yorkshire. The pair now aim to follow up Wednesday's record-breaking effort by "free-fall abseiling" 1½ miles from a helicopter.

Way cleared for appeal in Orkney case

By KERRY GILL

AN APPEAL against a sheriff's ruling that actions by social workers and the children's panel in the Orkney child abuse allegations were fundamentally flawed will begin early next month in the Court of Session, Scotland's supreme civil court, it was provisionally announced yesterday after a court hearing in Kirkwall, the Orkney islands' largest town.

The decision came after the sheriff, David Kelbie, heard submissions from counsel for Gordon Sloan, the panel's interim reporter, asking that extensive alterations be made to his stand case for the appeal hearing. It is understood that Sheriff Kelbie, who last month called for the nine children alleged to have been subjected to ritual sex abuse to be allowed home, turned down most of the submissions after the three-hour hearing.

The way is now clear for the appeal on behalf of Mr Sloan to go ahead. It is expected to last a week and will be followed by the judicial enquiry into the affair ordered by Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary.

After yesterday's hearing, attended by two of the four families, one parent said: "We want the appeal to go ahead as it will be the only way that we can hear the sheriff's judgment in full before the enquiry."

The parent said that his children were now "fine" after their five-week ordeal, which began when the youngsters were taken from their homes in a dawn raid by social workers in February and flown to the Scottish mainland. "They are glad to be

back on Orkney. They are swearing nicely, they did learn a lot while in care," he said, ruefully. One child was kept in a residential school to which all the other pupils had been sent for criminal offences.

Today, another Orkney mother will appeal to a sheriff for the return of eight of her children, aged between five and 16 years, held in care since November. She has not seen them since. The eldest child was taken just before her 16th birthday. It is believed that the allegations made against the four families, who had their children returned, emanated from at least one of her children while in care. It is understood that her lawyers will argue that, as the allegations had no foundation, her children should be returned, too.

One parent who had his children returned after Sheriff Kelbie's ruling said yesterday: "We are supported by the growing anger of the local community."

Prisoners take guard hostage

Three inmates held broken glass to a prison warden's throat after taking him hostage in an attempted escape.

They were overpowered by other warders as they marched the man towards the gatehouse at Aylesbury prison in Buckinghamshire on Wednesday night. The captured officer was released unharmed. The prisoners had smashed a window in the exercise yard and threatened him with shards of glass and a 2ft stick.

Yesterday, Clive Welsh, the prison governor, said that police were investigating the incident. The three prisoners, all aged under 22, were among 50 young offenders exercising at the time.

Blackmail case



George Mendoza, aged 57, an American writer, was remanded in custody at Bath yesterday accused of blackmail relating to taped conversations and photographs of the actress Jane Seymour (above).

Garage stabbing

A man plunged a knife into his own throat after driving onto a garage forecourt at Swindon and locking his car doors. He was in hospital yesterday after being helped by customers, who had to smash a window to reach him.

Boy questioned

Police were yesterday interviewing a boy aged nine about a fire that destroyed the B & J Farr plastics factory at Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire, on Monday.

Old soldier dies

Charlie Steele, one of the last surviving members of the Royal Engineers who fought in the battles of Mons and Ypres during the first world war, has died at Beeston, Nottinghamshire, aged 100.

150 jobs lost

Royal Doulton is to cut 150 jobs at its Minton pottery factory at Stoke-on-Trent. The firm blames a fall in orders caused by the recession.

Winter warmers

Policewomen in the Irish Republic have won a campaign for uniforms with trousers, but will still have to wear skirts in summer.

Sentencing guidance to cover rape

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSED sentencing guidelines designed to encourage greater use of community punishments are to be extended to include cases such as rape and robbery, which can be heard only in crown courts, it was disclosed yesterday.

Until recently, ministers had wanted the guidelines to cover just summary and so-called either-way cases, that is

those that can be heard either before magistrates or a jury. However, in the face of intense pressure from Opposition MPs and penal reformers, the government has decided that the sentencing framework should embrace all offences except murder.

A government amendment extending the sentencing criteria will be tabled next Tuesday, when the Criminal Justice Bill begins its report stage in the Lords. Notice of the amendment will appear on the Commons order paper today.

Under the bill, courts would be able only to impose prison terms either to protect the public from "serious harm" or where the offence was so serious that only a custodial sentence could be justified.

Courts would also have to consider probation service reports assessing the offenders' suitability for non-custodial penalties. Where it was felt a prison term was right, reasons would have to be given in open court.

The Home Office said that extending the criteria to "indictable-only" offences would not impose "unnecessary demands" on courts. Ministers now believed it was important that the sentencing framework should apply consistently.

Paul Cavadino, senior press officer for the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said the government's change of heart could further relieve pressure on prisons without endangering the public. "It

will help to guard against the unnecessary use of imprisonment in all cases where a community penalty is a realistic possibility," he said.

"Many people make the mistake of thinking that all indictable-only cases end in a jail term. In fact, around a quarter of offenders convicted of offences triable only before a jury receive non-custodial or suspended sentences," he said.

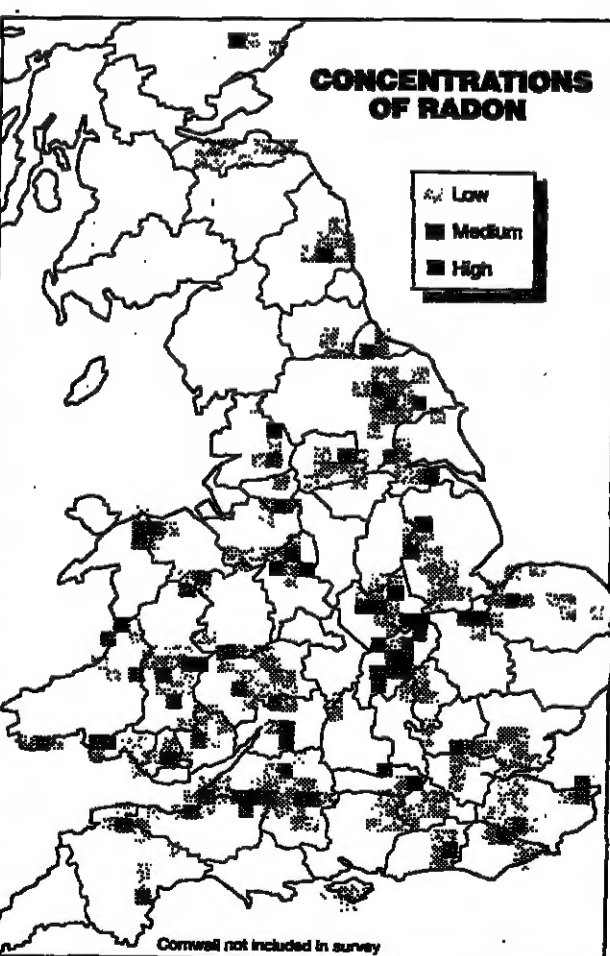
The association believes the move will also make for better justice in cases when offenders appeal against sentence. "The existence of a statement of reasons for a sentencing decision helps everyone involved in the appeal process to decide whether the sentencing court's reasoning was acceptable," Mr Cavadino added.

Radon gas hot spots found

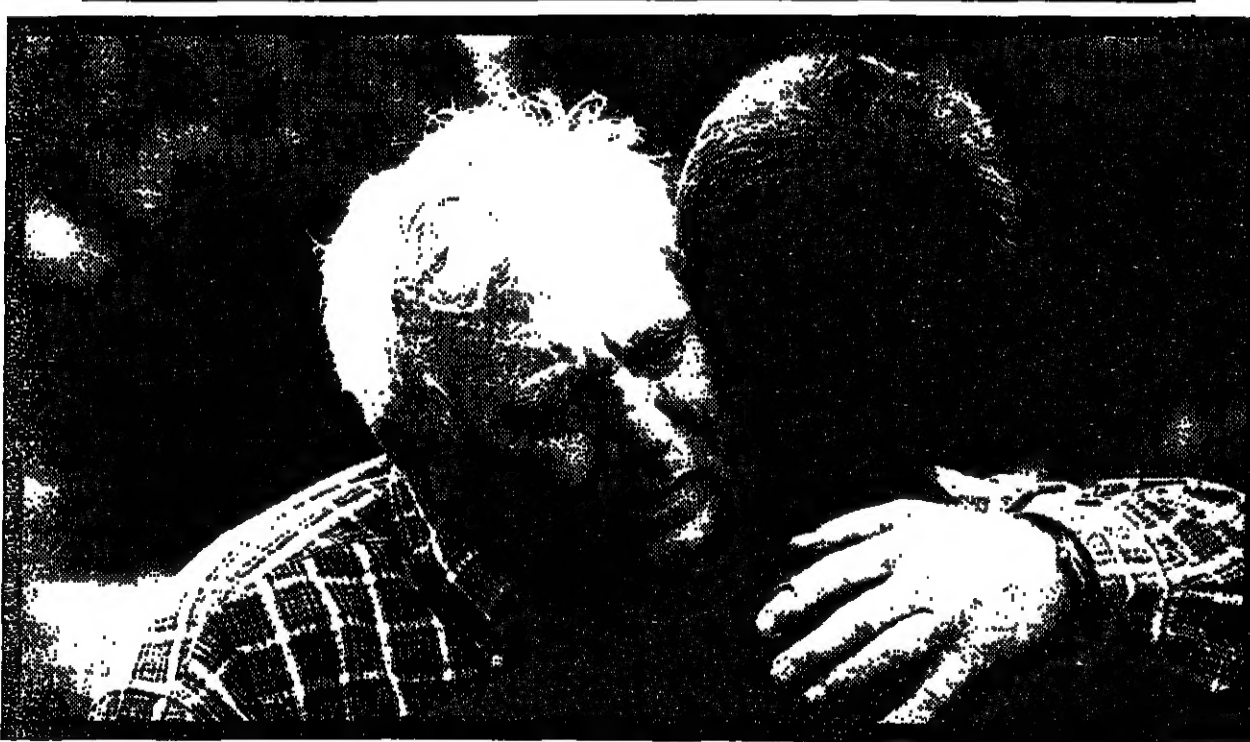
By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

HIGH levels of radon gas contamination have been found in 21 counties in England and Wales in a survey by the Institution of Environmental Health Officers. Discovery of "hot spots" of radon in many areas thought clear has led the body to call for an expanded national survey and better grants for gas-proofing houses.

Radon, an odourless gas produced by the decay of uranium in the ground, seeps into houses, where it is the single largest source of radiation to which people are exposed. The National Radiological Protection Board estimates that 2,500 cancer deaths a year in Britain are due to it. Radon is commonest in Cornwall, excluded from the survey due to past studies. It confirms high levels in the next worst-affected county, Northamptonshire, with hot spots in Avon, Berkshire, Gloucestershire, Humberside, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northumbria, North Yorkshire, Shropshire, Somerset, West Sussex, Wiltshire, West Yorkshire, Clwyd, Gwent, Mid-Glamorgan, Powys and West Glamorgan.



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 **British Red Cross**

Lawyer protests over handcuffing

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A SOLICITOR is seeking leave to take Cambridge magistrates and the chief constable of Cambridgeshire to court over their practice of handcuffing all defendants when they are brought to court to apply for bail.

George Peacock, a solicitor in Ely, is concerned about the practice, which is applied regardless of the defendant's likelihood of being granted bail or of absconding from the court.

He has now lodged an application to bring judicial review proceedings over

the magistrates' refusal to hear an application to have the handcuffs removed. "I have never come across this practice before. It seems quite unfair to the defendants and unnecessary... There is no suggestion that most of them pose any risk at all in respect of escape or violence. It is also demeaning and degrading," he said.

Mr Peacock has complained about the handcuffs policy to Philip Brown, the clerk to the Cambridge, Ely and Newmarket justices, and to Ian Kane, the chief constable of Cambridgeshire. Mr Brown told him: "Whilst I

appreciate that in many cases the handcuffing of prisoners may not be necessary to maintain security, it is however police policy, in view of the number of escapes and escape attempts which have taken place over the past few years, to ensure that all prisoners appearing from custody are handcuffed."

H. N. Llewellyn, barrister from the legal department at Cambridgeshire Constabulary, told Mr Peacock it did not accept that the policy, which was adopted in 1987 after two prisoners escaped at a Cambridge court, "prejudices detained persons".

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appeal in
key case

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Scottish Conservative Conference

Lang acclaims retreat from Thatcher style

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A RETREAT from the ideological conservatism that marked Margaret Thatcher's 11 years in power was sounded yesterday by Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary.

He sought to nudge his still broadly Thatcherite party into step with John Major's more pragmatic leadership by making better public services one of the key themes of his speech to what will probably be the last Scottish Tory conference before the next general election.

But it was his remarks in Perth about the presentation of Tory policies that marked

the most obvious break with the Thatcher era, which led to the Tories losing about half their Scottish seats at the 1987 election and has consigned them to the political doldrums ever since.

In an implied criticism of the dogmatic leadership supplied by Mrs Thatcher, Mr Lang said: "Perhaps too often in the past we have expressed our policies in abstract or ideological terms, when we should have been relating them more clearly to everyday issues. As Conservatives, we have our ideals and they are important. We are the party of

the free market, of sound money, of the property-owning democracy.

"But we are also the party that cares about quality and excellence and opportunity. We are the commonsense party, the party of good government. We must demonstrate that care and that commonsense. We must do more to explain our policies — to consult, to listen, to respond to people's anxieties.

"We must reassure people that we remain the broadest, the most tolerant and the least exclusive of parties, inspired by our ideals, rather than driven by ideological. That is the direction in which I want to take the Scottish Conservative party. It is in line with our tradition in Scotland and I believe it is what the people want of us."

Mr Lang also sketched out the social agenda on which he wants Scottish Tories to try to wrest back support from Labour at the next election. On education, he said he wanted to see more money going directly from the taxpayer to the classroom and not being wasted on needless bureaucracy. Parent power would be extended but only as long as such changes met the overriding objective of raising standards.

The Scottish secretary also restated his party's commitment to the National Health Service, which is again in doubt with the dispute over job cuts at self-governing hospitals. He said: "The NHS is not only safe in our hands, it is flourishing... what we must do is seek ways of giving patients more rights. Rights to better, quicker health care. More preventive medicine, a better relationship with GPs."

On housing, Mr Lang promised a renewed effort to help tenants get a better service from their landlords. Mr Lang coupled his vision for Scotland with sharp attacks on his political opponents.

Tory faithful hail Heseltine

MICHAEL Heseltine's political rehabilitation took a step forward yesterday when Conservative activists demonstrated that they were beginning to forgive him for his part in Margaret Thatcher's downfall.

The environment secretary was given a standing ovation at the end of his speech at the Scottish Conservative party conference and was rewarded with several bursts of sustained applause for some typically impassioned attacks on Labour. But the sight of a minority of representatives, including a platoon of young Tory right-wingers, pointedly remaining seated and according him only the most perfunctory applause, was a reminder that he has yet to be accepted fully back into the Conservative fold.

A threat by some young Conservatives to greet Mr Heseltine's arrival with 30 pieces of silver failed to materialize.

In contrast to the Scottish people, the Scottish Tory faithful idolized Mrs Thatcher and Mr Heseltine risked a bumpy ride when he crossed



Heseltine acknowledges the cheers yesterday

the border to make only his second set piece conference speech since returning to the cabinet in November. His only other encounter with the party faithful had ended disastrously in March when he was heckled at the Southport Central Council meeting over his plans to ditch the poll tax.

On Wednesday, the conference made clear that it was resigned to the demise of the poll tax and its replacement by the council tax. Yesterday it received Mr Heseltine in the same spirit of reconciliation.

Pupil tests are extended

PLANS to extend national testing of pupils to every year of their school career up to the age of 14 were unveiled yesterday by Michael Forsyth, Scotland's education minister. He also announced that he was commissioning a study into truancy in Scottish schools and signalled a fresh assault on low standards in some inner-city schools.

Mr Forsyth coupled his announcements at the Perth conference with a fierce attack on Scotland's biggest teachers' union, the Labour party and some educationists over their

opposition to testing.

He accused the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) of telling parents "a pack of lies" about the test, the introduction of which in primary schools was badly disrupted by union and parental boycotts earlier in the year. Nevertheless, Mr Forsyth sought to soften his abrasive Thatcherite image by holding out an olive branch to the institute.

He appealed to the EIS to abandon its stance of "permanent protest" and work with

ministers in furthering the "quiet revolution" in Scottish schools. His tone was markedly more conciliatory than that of conference speakers who called the EIS "educational huddies" and "playground bullies".

Drawing a sharp distinction between the political challenges of the Eighties and Nineties, he said that he was proud to be part of the prime minister's search for a classless society. Mr Major's goal of creating a society at ease with itself was a noble and exciting one.

Ministers avoid car charges

By JOHN WUNDER

MINISTERIAL cars will not be liable for the new national insurance charge on company cars because they are provided from a pool as needed and are not allocated to individuals, Nicholas Scott, social security minister, told MPs yesterday.

Mr Scott, who was moving second reading of the social security (contributions) bill, said the scheme would give employers a minimum of extra work because it would stick closely to the inland revenue rules about tax on employees for company cars with which employers were familiar. Concern about extra record keeping was not well-founded.

Roger King, Conservative MP for Birmingham, Northfield, said that many employees had to have cars to do their job, just as ministers needed word processors and videos.

Mr Scott replied that if an employee had a car exclusively for business use, no national insurance would be payable on it.

Employees would not pay national insurance on company cars because they already paid tax on them; it would be difficult to integrate a payment into the system and the complications for employers would be out of proportion to the income raised.

Employers' representatives were being invited to comment on the scheme which would be operated by regulations under the bill. The scheme would raise £550 million in the present tax year from payments in respect of cars and £60 million more for fuel provided to employees. That represented 0.2 per cent of total labour cost, spread among 300,000 employers and the additional burden should not be exaggerated.

Graham Allen, an Opposition spokesman, said that there was little in the bill that he could fault.

New attempt to find owners of mansion

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A FRESH attempt to establish the ownership of Heveningham Hall, an outstanding eighteenth century country house in Suffolk, was launched yesterday with demands to John Major and Michael Heseltine for full disclosure of the events surrounding its privatisation in 1981.

The condition of the hall, an elegant Georgian mansion managed by the National Trust through the Seventies, has declined in recent years as campaigners for its restoration have tried in vain to discover the identity of its ultimate owner.

Last night the Labour leadership intervened in the affair with Bryan Gould, the

shadow environment secretary, writing to Mr Heseltine, who was in his first spell as environment secretary when the hall was sold, demanding information. The Heveningham action group also called on John Major to act over the "Heveningham scandal."

Mr Gould said that in 1981 Mr Heseltine had announced that the hall had been sold to Abdul Al-Ghazzi, an Iraqi businessman, and the impression was given that the house would be restored by him and used as a private residence.

It subsequently emerged that the house was sold not to a private individual but to a Swiss company, ID Invest-

ment Development AG, and that the sale had been arranged through an English company, Gulf Development, whose directors and former directors were all prominent Conservatives, including its managing director at the time, Chris Patten.

Attempts by the action group to discover from the government the shareholders or ownership of the company have so far failed.

In their letter to Mr Major the action group alleges that at a public footpath enquiry in 1988 it was revealed that the purpose for which the hall was purchased was "to provide an environment for the development of a centre for the study of the history of the house and its surroundings."

It goes on: "Such a purpose suggests the presence of a cause, and the involvement of politicians on the purchaser's side suggests the cause was political. Compelling circumstantial evidence indicates that the cause in question was that of the Palestine Liberation Organisation."

It went on: "The government is asking us to believe that it does not know to whom it sold Heveningham Hall. This is not satisfactory, not least because two of three secretaries of state with whom we have corresponded, Mr Heseltine and his predecessor Mr Patten, were directly involved in the 1981 transaction."

Mr Gould said: "We must get to the bottom of this mystery. The government must know who the owners of Heveningham Hall are. After all two prominent members of the Cabinet were intimately involved in its sale. I shall keep plugging away until the truth is revealed."

Jail education plea

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A DEMAND was made by a parliamentary enquiry yesterday for legislation to guarantee quality training or education for all prisoners to help to check the wave of crime threatening society.

A prison regimes act should set out the objectives of imprisonment, including the need to give prisoners every possible help, encouragement and incentive to abandon a criminal course of life, the Commons education committee said. "The present level of crime and criminality threatens the continuance of the institutions of society. Imprisonment is a factor in the situation: we cannot afford prisons which are an expensive way of making bad people worse."

Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, welcomed the committee's central goal of giving prisoners, through edu-

cation and training, a better chance of leading a life free from crime after their release. But he will not indicate whether he supports legislation until producing his formal reply to the report later this summer.

The Conservative-dominated committee, which visited Brixton prison and Feltham young offenders' centre, found that education varied from the most promising achievements to a level little above basic survival. Many prisons had squalid conditions, it said. "We speak not only of walls stained with faeces and broken windows, but also of simple unwashed grubbiest."

"The educational impact of such conditions is obvious. First they depress the inmates' self-respect... Second, they habituate inmates to vandalism..."



Speaker defends work rate

The work rate of MPs was defended by Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, yesterday against aspersions cast by a tabloid newspaper. He quoted with approval the view that part of the modern press might be summed up in three phrases: "Make it brief, make it juicy and make it up."

He was responding to concern about an article in the *Today* newspaper which questioned how hard MPs worked and listed their voting records. The list, however, included the names of those who had been unable to vote because of illness and, in one case, because of death.

Labour MP stays silent

Dave Nellist, the Labour left winger, declined to explain his words in the division lobbies on Wednesday which Tory MPs said included taunts of racism against them. The Speaker, Bernard Weatherill, gave him the opportunity after renewed complaints from Tory backbenchers who alleged he said: "This way, racists..."

War crimes

The war crimes bill, which was forced through Parliament after the Lords refused to give it a second reading on two occasions, was given royal assent yesterday. The measure allows suspected Nazi war criminals now living in this country to be prosecuted.

Next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be: Monday: Motion for the spring recess. Tuesday: Debates on Opposition motions on the NHS and on help for the third world. Wednesday: Debate on the government's expenditure plans. Thursday: Planning and compensation bill, remaining stages. Friday: Debate on private member's motion. The main business in the House of Lords is expected to be: Monday: Northern Ireland (emergency provisions) bill, committee. Tuesday: Criminal justice bill, report. Wednesday: Debates on the arts and on the NHS. Thursday: Child support bill, third reading. Friday: Coal mining subsidy bill, second reading.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private members' bills: Badgers bill and gaming (amendment) bill, remaining stages. Lords (11): Ports bill, second reading.

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Labour faces uphill battle

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

A NEW guide to marginal seats and the possibilities for tactical voting sets out the scale of Labour's task in seeking outright victory at the next election.

"Can the Tories Lose?", edited by Gareth Smyth, and published in association with the centre-left group Common Voice, says that if the Liberal Democrats retain the 22 seats the Alliance won at the last election, with 17 going to the Northern Ireland parties and six to the nationalists, then Labour will need to capture 51 seats from the Conservatives to deprive them of their overall majority.

Labour will need to gain a further 23 seats to become the largest single party and 23 more to have an overall majority, an overall total of 97 gains required.

Majorities in the 51 seats where Labour came closest to the Tories in 1987 range from 0.2 per cent in York to 9.1 per cent in Feltham and Heston. In two, Stockton South and Colne Valley, Labour would have to come from third place behind the Liberal Democrats.

A chapter on marginal seats by Tim Johnson points out that Labour needs a uniform swing of 4.6 per cent to deprive the Tories of power and a swing of nearly 8.5 per cent to gain power itself. 5.5 per cent ahead of the Tories in share of the national vote. Votes of the two main parties have been within 3.4 per cent of each other at seven of the thirteen post-war elections.

The book says: "If the swing from Tory to Labour ranges from 0 to 4.6 per cent the Tories will be returned to power with a reduced overall majority. If it ranges from 4.6 per cent to 8.5 per cent, at least in the places which matter, then there will be a hung parliament."

Each net gain the other parties make from the Tories lowers the threshold Labour has to reach. And the book claims that a mere 4.5 per cent swing from the Tories to the leading challenger in each marginal seat, leading to the Liberal Democrats and nationalists gaining a dozen seats from the Tories, would leave Labour needing to gain

only 53 seats from the Tories "to be on the edge of forming a government".

The book, which sets out to arm voters in marginals with the information they need to vote tactically, suggests that northern Alliance candidates in 1987 benefited by some 5 per cent from tactical voting in seats where Labour was weak.

And the evidence of council elections this year and of the parliamentary by-election successes for Liberal Democrats David Bellotti and Mike Carr in Eastbourne and Ribbles Valley, is that anti-government voters are becoming increasingly willing to concentrate their support on the candidate most likely to beat the Tory.

The marginals study points out that in practice swings are not uniform and that the overall swing of 1.7 per cent from Conservative to Labour in 1987 ranged from more than 10 per cent in some Liverpool constituencies to a swing of more than 8 per cent from Labour to Conservative in some London seats.

It says: "Even if there is a big swing to Labour in the country as a whole but the swing is less in the 'decider' seats then the Tories could still hang on to power against the tide, something they have been good at in the past."

The projections of possible general election results from this year's local government elections, indicating heavy Tory losses, suffered from one major defect: there were no elections in Scotland or in London.

At the last election and in the previous year's local elections Labour did worse than it did elsewhere in London, where figures like Joan Twelves of Lambeth council have ensured that the image of a hard-left party still persists.

The Commons Voice study says: "Suppose Labour did get a swing of 8.5 per cent nationwide, but 5.8 per cent less in London: Mr Kinnock would be 16 seats short of an overall majority he could otherwise expect."

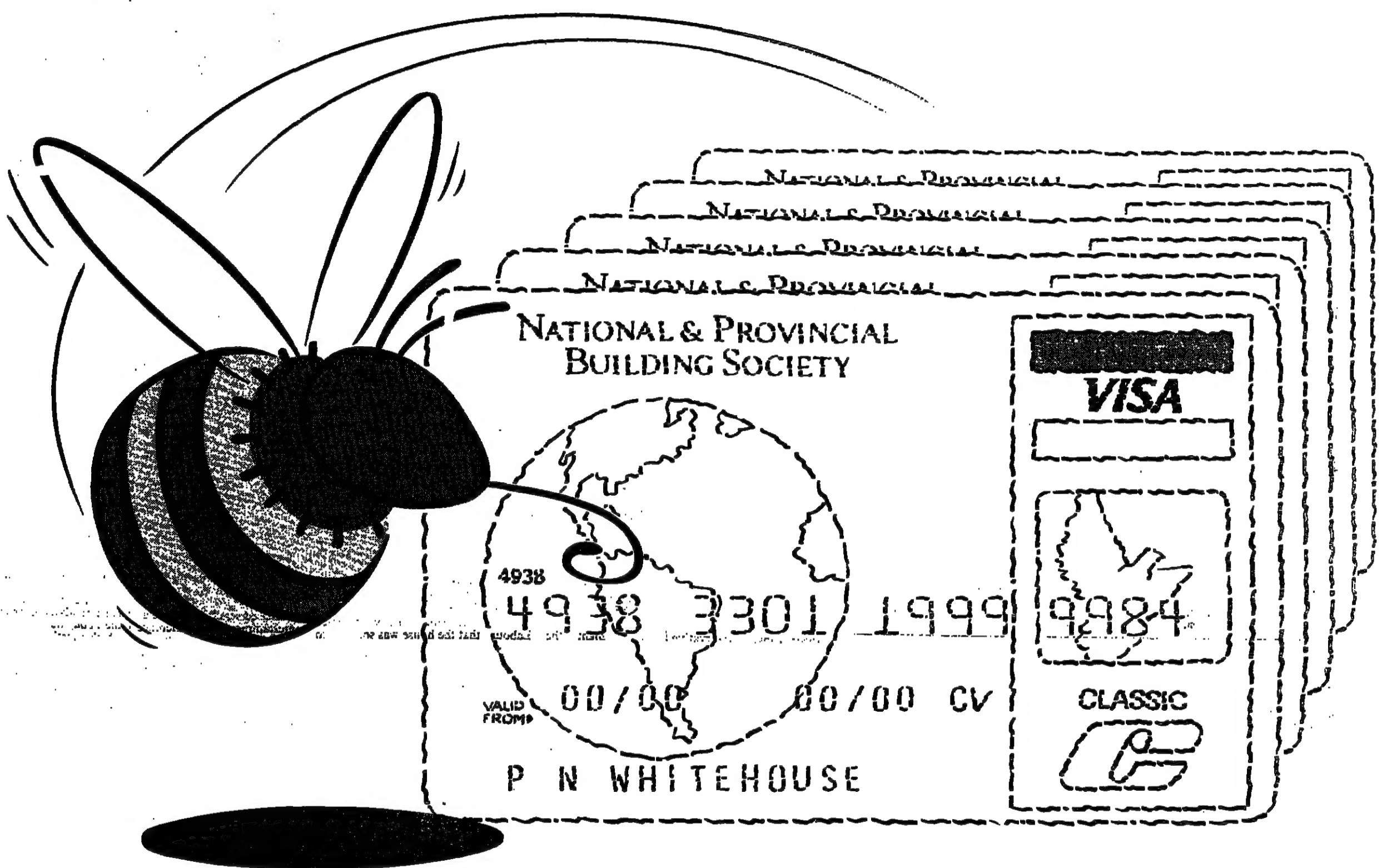
"Can the Tories Lose? The battle for the marginals, edited by Gareth Smyth (Lawrence and Wishart £4.99)

THE TIMES FRIDAY MAY 10 1991

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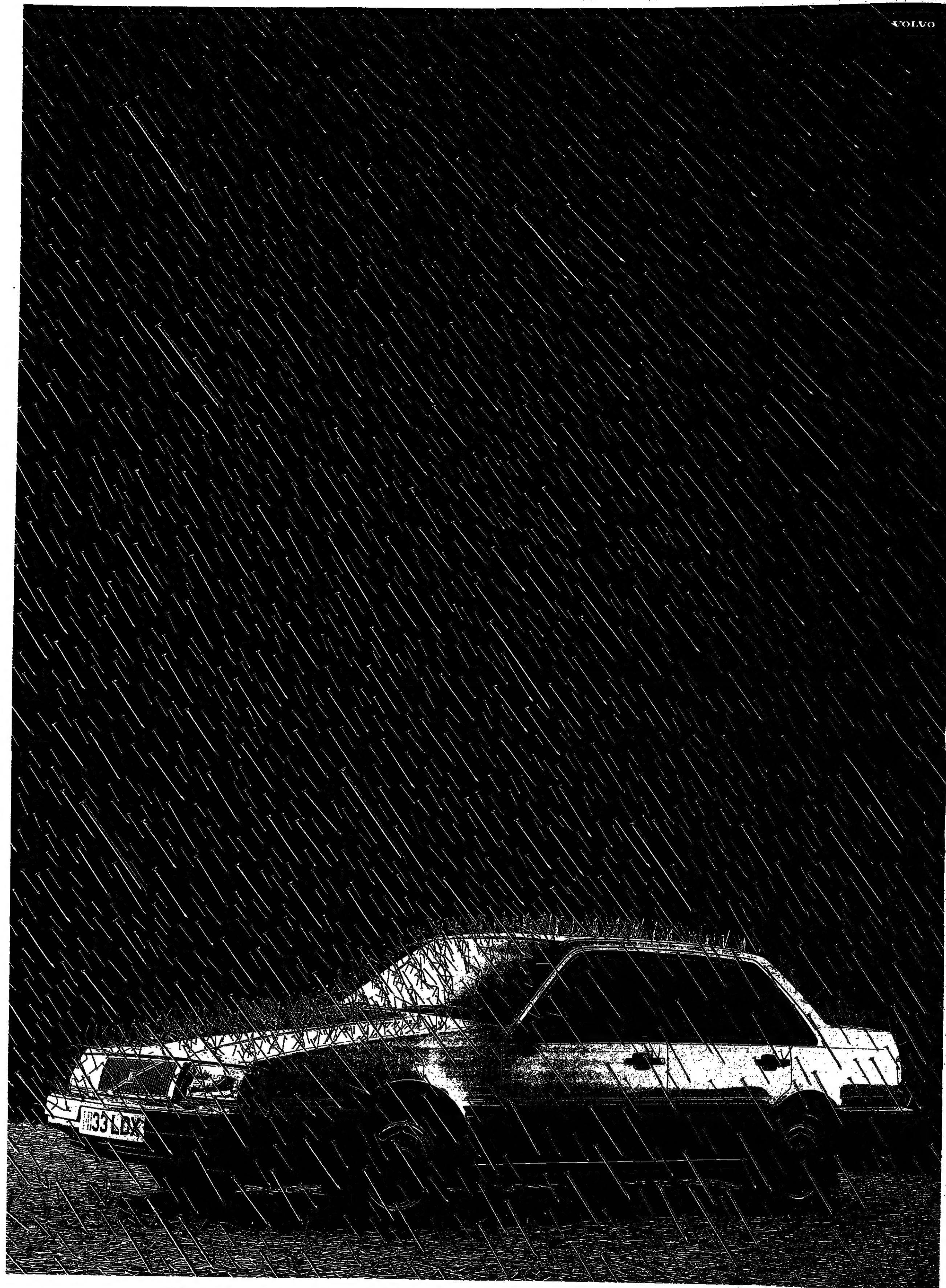
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مكتبة الامم

Bessmertnykh will take tough line on Israeli settlements

From RICHARD BEESTON
IN JERUSALEM

THE Soviet foreign minister, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, arrives in Israel today for an historic, though short and potentially stormy meeting with Israeli leaders to discuss peace efforts in the Middle East.

The visit, the first by a Soviet foreign minister in Israel's history, marks a turning point in Moscow's desire to play an active role in co-sponsoring regional peace talks with the United States.

But yesterday, after talks in Amman with Jordan's King Hussein, Mr Bessmertnykh made it clear that Israel's policy of building Jewish settlements in the occupied territories blocked the way for progress. "I cannot foresee, conceive or accept a situation when a peace conference is in session while the settlements are going to be built," he said. "This is a question to be solved. The Soviet Union and other countries, who are interested in arranging such a conference, are going to deal with that problem straightforwardly and directly as one of the things to be solved before the conference starts," he said.

Although senior officials in Jerusalem have been unable to disguise their excitement about the visit, Mr Bessmertnykh is expected to deliver this blunt message and others to Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, and David Levy, the foreign minister, when he meets them in Jerusalem during his five-hour stopover. The issue of the settlements



Bessmertnykh: progress blocked by settlements

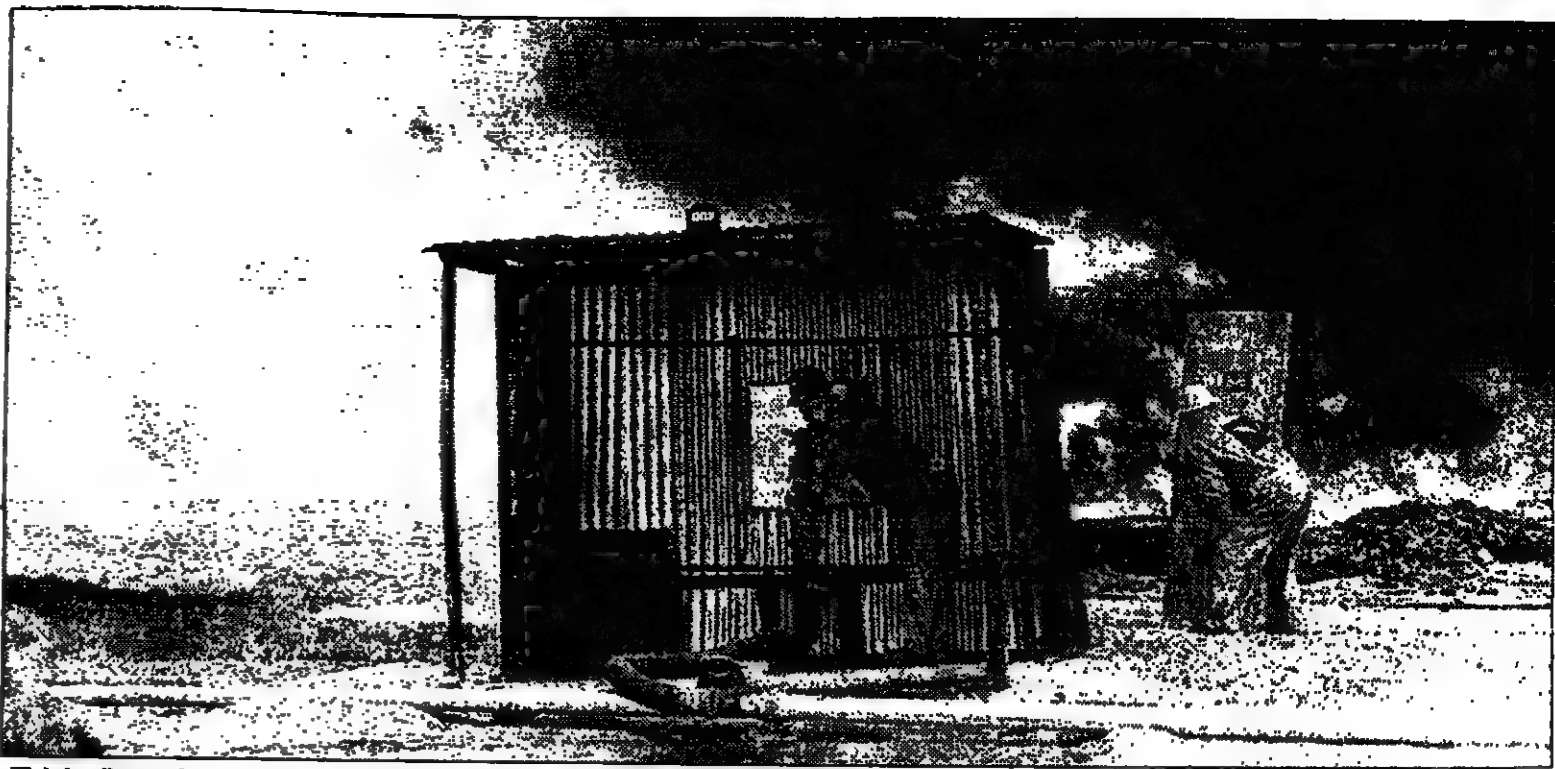
has plagued American-led peace efforts and has attracted especially harsh language from the normally intransigent James Baker, the American Secretary of State, who returns to the region this weekend on his fourth round of shuttle diplomacy since the end of the Gulf war.

The Soviet envoy emphasised in remarks made in Amman yesterday that Moscow may be finding more common ground with Washington in its approach to the Middle East, but it nonetheless is eager to preserve its traditionally strong ties with the Arab world and to support Arab claims at the negotiating table. Syria and other Arab states have agreed to Mr Baker's proposal for regional peace talks but want the negotiations to be used as a means of enforcing United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, which call for Israel to withdraw from all territory

occupied in the 1967 war, in a return for peace with its neighbours.

"The viewpoints of Syria and the Soviet Union are identical on the peace process, the peace conference, its structure, its continuity and the participation of the UN and the Europeans," said the Syrian foreign minister, Farouk al-Sharaa, at a joint press conference with Mr Bessmertnykh in Damascus yesterday at the end of the Syrian leg of his journey. The Soviet mediator said there were some "difficulties to overcome" but said that he had not encountered many in Syria.

Those remarks do not bode well for his first trip to Jerusalem where Israeli leaders will tell him that Syria's position is unacceptable. Israel wants to avoid negotiating at the conference and instead talk directly to each of its Arab neighbours separately. In particular, it rejects the concept of "land for peace" and UN participation, and has reacted coolly to European involvement.



Fighting fire: workers protected by shields of sheet metal attempt to put out one of the many oil-well fires started by the retreating Iraqis, near Kuwait City. As work on putting out the fires continued, Kuwaiti ministers abandoned their homes yesterday and took a bus to the oilfields. The crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad al-Abdulla al-Sabah, and his cabinet inspected the fire-fighting work.

Iraqi special forces move into Dahuk

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE war of nerves round Dahuk escalated yesterday when 2,000 Iraqi forces moved into the town, reinforcing fears that President Saddam Hussein is unwilling to give up the provincial capital as easily as he surrendered the town of Zakho. Many Iraqi troops left the city

after the first American forces arrived on the outskirts on Sunday, but Captain Chris Mulholland, a US marine officer in northern Iraq, said that members of Iraq's 66th Special Forces Brigade had moved in since then. No date has been set for an allied push into Dahuk, but it

is expected to take place early next week when the American troops will be joined by British and French soldiers. The politically sensitive move would not then be seen as a purely American operation. US reconnaissance planes flew over Dahuk yesterday to check on Iraqi gun emplace-

ments. Allied officers said they had received assurances from a representative of Saddam that Iraqi troops would avoid shooting incidents, such as the one on Wednesday when American naval planes came under fire from anti-aircraft artillery gunners.

Saddam's guns target the Shias

From ADAM KELLY IN BASRA

STATUES of 90 fallen soldiers stand along the Shatt al-Arab waterway, pointing towards Iran, the foe that has borne the heaviest burden of President Saddam Hussein's strategies of nation building. But beneath the monuments and away from the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, their comrades still in arms point their weapons at another enemy: the Shia citizenry now feeling exposed as America pulled out from south Iraq yesterday.

The job of protecting people in the demilitarised zone from Saddam now passes to the 1,440-strong United Nations force. But from their tanks and machinegun nests, through patrols and surveillance, the Iraqi military hopes to hunt down the worm within, the Shias who chose to rebel against Saddam in the power vacuum that followed the Gulf war.

The event climaxed a cathartic decade for Basra, frequently hit during the Iran-Iraq war, hammered during the Gulf war, and gutted during the 20-day battle between Shia insurgents and a merciless military. "The Americans destroyed the things that these people could not destroy and these people destroyed the things that Bush could not destroy," said one war-weary shopkeeper. "Basra was a flower 15 years ago. Now even the river water is no good."

The city is strewn with

monuments to poisonous politics. Because Basra housed concentrations of troops and hardware linked to the Kuwaiti occupation, allied bombs rained down, many falling on surrounding civilian areas deemed strategic in coalition control rooms.

Virtually every bridge was severed, many large buildings obliterated, and hulks of burnt-out ships litter the waterway that is Iraq's only access to the sea. But beside every building levelled by bombs and missiles, there was evidence of a meaner and more intimate battle, the street-by-street fighting that took place when the army returned. Official buildings were burnt, and most city streets carry the scars of bullets and cavities left by shells.

Residents interviewed in circumstances in which they could speak freely said the government's popularity is about zero in Basra. They said the insurrection began spontaneously when thousands of deserters and demoralised troops flowed back into the city after surviving the intense allied bombardment during their escape from Kuwait.

Some said the fighting was sparked by zealous Iranian infiltrators. But most said the insurrection came naturally to soldiers of Shia stock who constitute the bulk of the army's enlisted ranks, and who craved for revenge after the débâcle in Kuwait.

Lebanon calls on tourists to return

From JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO IN BEIRUT

IN A fine example of Lebanese entrepreneurial optimism, Mounir Kawar, a balding Beirut travel agent with a pencil moustache and an exclusively Arab clientele, was planning yesterday to expand his small office in Baalbek Street, only hours after the government formally announced that foreign businessmen and tourists were being invited to drop their fears and begin visiting the country again.

"It will take time, but we will certainly see better days," said Mr Kawar, who still recalls the morning in June 1976 when he said he last dealt with a foreign tourist. "God willing, we will have lots of foreigners again. One has to be prepared and wait."

In an unparalleled expression of self-confidence, the government yesterday con-

dially asked foreigners who fled the violence and kidnappings in Lebanon to return to Beirut, saying their safety would be fully guaranteed.

Eager to see Beirut regaining its key financial role in the Middle East, the Syrian-backed government of President Hrawi said that the perils of the civil war had disappeared for good. General Sami al-Khatib, the interior minister, said: "Lebanon is now dangerous only for terrorists."

Already heavily guarded by Syrian plain-clothes agents, the airport is being expanded as airlines from Jordan, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and the Soviet Union have resumed operations and Middle East Airlines, the national flag carrier, has brought back its fleet of Boeing 747s for the first time in years.

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Iodine cure for Bush's ailment

FROM REUTER
IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush began taking radioactive iodine yesterday to control an over-active thyroid gland that was the cause of a heart ailment which landed him in the hospital last weekend, doctors said. The doctors said Mr Bush suffers from Graves disease, a thyroid condition that also affects his wife, Barbara.

Doctors determined on Wednesday that the president, who is 66, has slightly elevated hormone levels secreted from his thyroid gland and said this was the cause of his erratic heartbeat. His doctors released their official diagnosis of Mr Bush's ailment at Bethesda Naval Medical Centre hours after he underwent more tests there on his over-active thyroid.

Colonel Kenneth Burman, a US army thyroid specialist who is also treating Mrs Bush's Graves disease, said President Bush would drink doses of radioactive iodine for two weeks and received the first dose yesterday morning. Colonel Burman said he believed controlling the thyroid gland will stop Mr Bush's atrial fibrillation.

New York's mayor seeks sacrifices as fiscal wolves close in

FROM CHARLES BREMMER IN NEW YORK



Dinkins: special plea on prime-time television

FACED with the biggest troubles since New York's brush with bankruptcy in the 1970s, the mayor, David Dinkins, took over prime-time television on Wednesday night to try to convince citizens that the fiscal wolf was at their door. His sombre survey of imminent disaster, broadcast live on all main television channels, was an attempt to win the attention of a blasé populace and appeal for a spirit of sacrifice over the heads of hostile trade unions and state politicians.

"We simply do not have the resources to pay for what we need," Mr Dinkins said. The city, which is suffering from record rates of crime and social upheaval, must come up with at least \$3.5 billion (£2 million) to bridge a gap in its \$29 billion budget for the year starting in July.

Under a "doomsday plan" announced last weekend, the city is to turn off a quarter of its street lights, drain its swimming pools, shut its homeless shelters and drug clinics, close several museums and libraries and sack more than 20,000 workers, includ-

ing the unions and the state into compromise. These would be "some of the most difficult, painful, budget cuts that our city has ever had to confront," he said.

His emotional appeal evoked memories of a similar broadcast 16 years ago this month by the then mayor, Abraham Beame. Weeks later Governor Hugh Carey stepped in to rescue the city from bankruptcy, a step that paved the way for the boom of the 1980s but also saddled the politicians with the supervision of a state financial control board.

If the city slides more than \$100 million into deficit, the board is obliged to intervene and take municipal finances out of the mayor's hands, a step that would spell political doom for Mr Dinkins — as it did for Mr Beame — and destroy the unions' bargaining power. Mr Dinkins, elected as a soothing figure after the racially acrimonious years of Edward Koch, has come under fire from all sides for failing to tackle the problem.

See lobby broken, page 14



Royal visit: the Princess of Wales playing the piano for Czechoslovakian orphans during a tour of the Home of Children at Prague castle on the last day of her official visit yesterday. The princess visited several

charitable foundations and the Beatekmann Mozart museum before leaving for London. However, the Prince of Wales will be staying an extra day to inspect ecological devastation in northern Bohemia.

Prague promised new pact by Kohl

Bonn — A new but difficult pact between Germany and Czechoslovakia, aimed at ending the animosity between the two countries caused by the Nazi occupation, is being negotiated in Bonn (Ian Murray writes).

Vaclav Havel, the president of Czechoslovakia, who was in Aachen yesterday to receive the Charlemagne prize for his contribution to European unity, has been promised by Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, that the treaty should be ready to sign by the end of the year.

Descendants of ethnic Germans from the Sudetenland, however, are already threatening to contest the treaty if it does nothing to protect their rights, while Czechs living in property confiscated at the end of the war fear that they will lose their homes if the treaty recognises the ethnic Germans' rights.

As part of a package of sweeteners, Herr Kohl has promised the president that he will give every support to a Czechoslovak application to join the European Community. Economic, technological and scientific aid will also be offered, as well as incentives for German companies to make further investments in Czechoslovakia.

Prisoner flees

Stockholm — A Palestinian, Marten Imandi, aged 37, who was convicted of bombings in Denmark and The Netherlands, escaped from a maximum security prison by scaling a wall and commandeering a car with a shotgun, police said. Imandi was given a life sentence in 1989. (AP)

Germans angry

Bonn — The Soviet Union has learnt quickly how to exploit the benefits of a free market. With the Deutschmarks it was given to pull troops out of eastern Germany, Moscow is to hire a Finnish-Turkish consortium to build 3,000 homes, rejecting German bids and angering Bonn.

Activists killed

Brasilia — Hired gunmen murdered 35 Brazilian peasant leaders fighting for a more equal distribution of land last year, church leaders said in a report. This brought to 563 the number of activists killed over the last six years, the pastoral land commission of the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops said. (Reuters)

Envoy sacked

Canberra — The Australian government was forced to sack Brian Burke as its ambassador to Ireland after a legal technicality prevented his resignation. Mr Burke, embroiled in a political scandal, had earlier announced he was leaving with immediate effect, instead of resigning. (Reuters)

Death wish

Paris — Fifty per cent of French people questioned in an opinion poll for *Le Parisien Libéré* newspaper said that they regretted the abolition of the death penalty ten years ago. The use of the guillotine was scrapped soon after President Mitterrand was elected. (Reuters)

Moscow to scrap last SS20 missiles

By MICHAEL EVANS

AT A Soviet test range 56 miles southeast of Volgograd, the Soviet Union will tomorrow begin destroying the last 21 SS20 missiles, developed to threaten West Europe. The two-day operation will be watched by inspectors from the American On-Site Inspection Agency.

The destruction of the final batch of medium-range missiles will mark the demise of one of the Cold War's most menacing symbols. The deployment of the 1,125-mile range SS20 missile in 1977 forced Nato governments to reassess the nuclear threat facing Europe and led to American Pershing 2 and ground-launched cruise missiles being based in Britain, Germany, Belgium and Italy.

The proposal to counter the Soviet SS20s with similar missiles was made by Helmut Schmidt, the German Social Democrat chancellor, to ensure that the United States remained locked into European security.

Under the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty, signed in December 1987 by President Reagan and President Gorbachev, it was agreed that all limited items would be destroyed by May 31. The United States destroyed the last Pershing 2 missiles on Monday at the Longhorn ammunition plant, near Marshall in Texas.

WASHINGTON: The House of Representatives' armed services committee has voted to reduce the strategic defence initiative budget by \$1.6 billion (£950 million).

Spanish dons tilt at EC over tilde

An attempt by European Community bureaucrats to eliminate a Spanish letter from computer keyboards sold in Spain provoked a near-revolt in the literary world yesterday.

Reacting to a demand from Brussels to do away with the requirement that Spanish keyboards include the "ñ", the Spanish Royal Academy called an emergency meeting and an industry ministry spokesman said: "We're going to defend the 'ñ' to the very end, like a cat on its back."

The sound of "n" without a tilde accent is similar to that of the same letter in English, but "ñ" is pronounced more like "ny", as in "senior". According to the EC, the Madrid government's rules, which make the "ñ" obligatory, represent an unfair restriction on trade, since standard keyboards elsewhere in Europe do not have the letter and such keyboards cannot be exported to Spain.

Spanish-language scholars and writers, however, insist that "n" is not the same as "ñ". A milking machine (*ordenador*), for instance, would become a

computer without the accent over the "n".

The director of the Spanish Royal Academy, Manuel Alvar, suggested that the EC could do away with the French cedilla or the umlaut. Another academy member, Gregorio Salvador, fumed: "We're not going to endure the disgrace of having to oblige people whose family names are written with 'ñ' to change their names. The EC has lost a sense of proportion of its own capabilities."

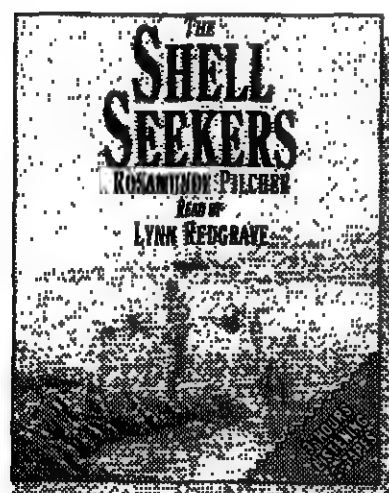
The writer, Juan Benet, said that it would be hard to convince Spain to accept the change, since it would require changing the name of the country, España. The curious part is that many computers are imported, in defiance of the Spanish regulation, bereft of the "ñ". One way to assuage the wrath of the academy "immortals" and at the same time standardise keyboards involves a change in software, as well as hardware, which would incorporate the tilde alone as a symbol on all European keyboards.

Harry Debelius

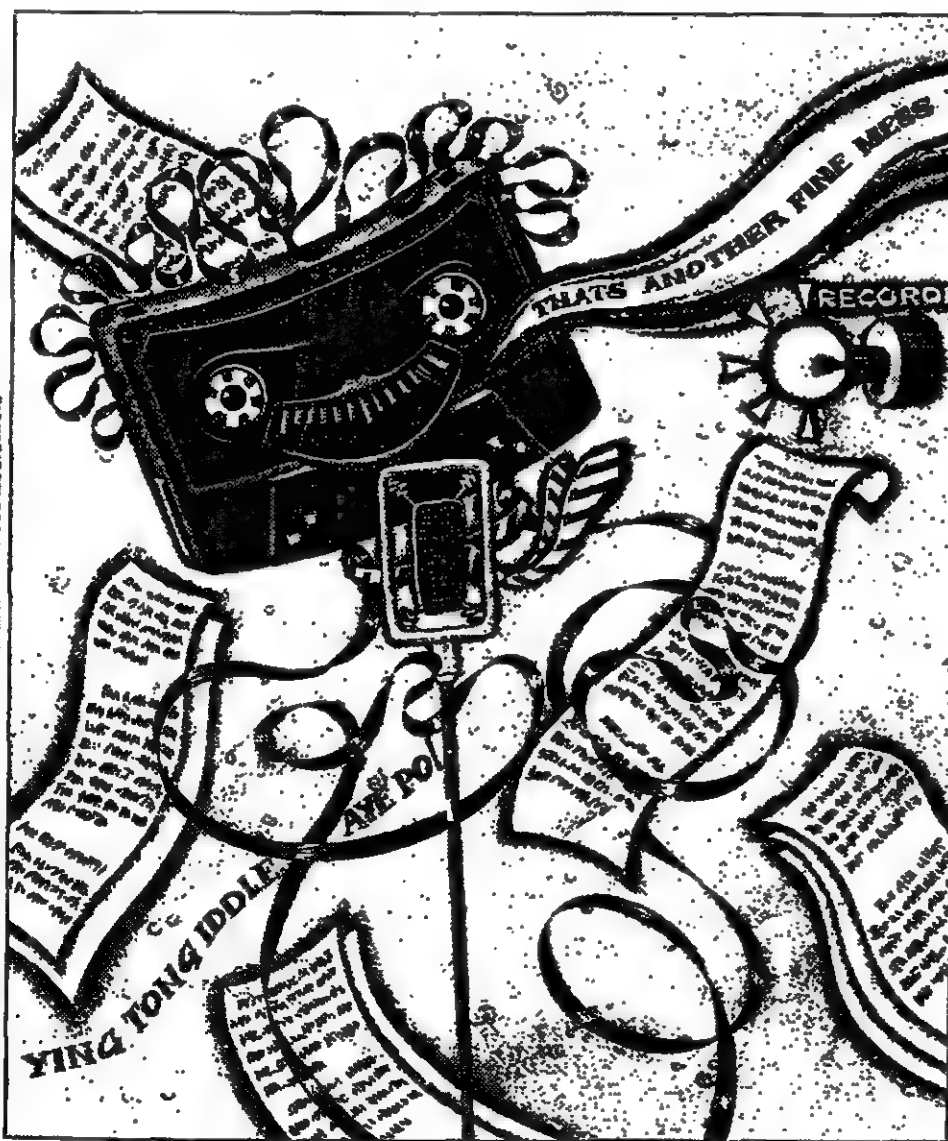
Smith's have tapes with speakers.



Laurel & Hardy £7.15

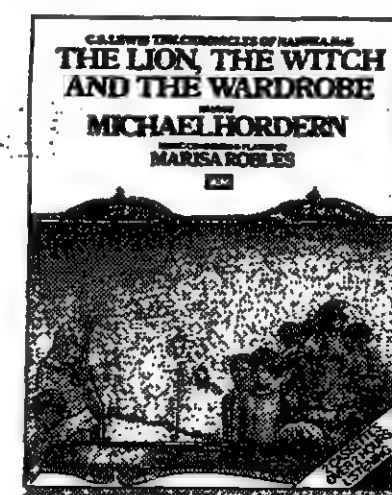


The Shell Seekers £5.99

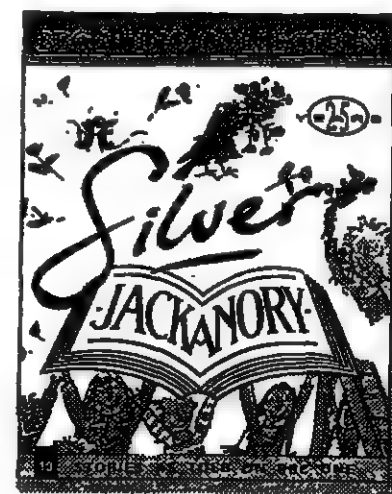


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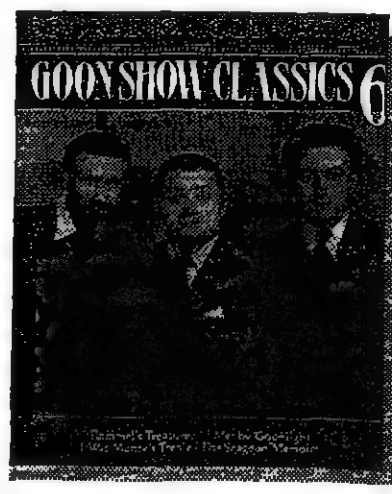
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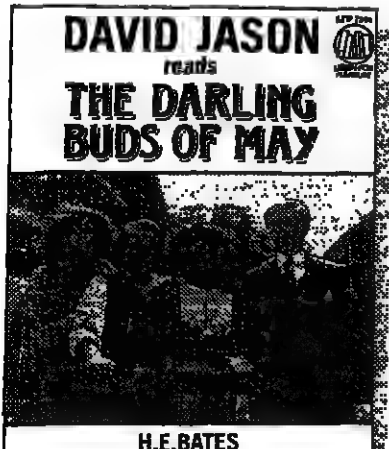
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Tudjman turns his back on Belgrade peace agreement

FROM TIM JUDAH
AND DESSA TREVISAN
IN BELGRADE

FRANJO Tudjman, the president of Croatia, yesterday angrily denied that his republic had ceded any sovereignty in an agreement which his own representative had signed only hours earlier. He himself did not take part.

The deal ordered the disarming of all civilians and paramilitary groups in Croatia and the demobilisation of reserve police and was hailed as an important breakthrough in attempts to resolve Yugoslavia's constitutional problems and avert a military takeover.

Speaking at a press conference in Zagreb, Dr Tudjman said that he would not negotiate with the leaders of Croatia's rebel Serb area, whom he dubbed "terrorists". He added that it was out of the question that regular and reserve policemen could be disarmed, but he conceded that they could be demobilised in areas where there was no tension.

The collective presidency said after reaching agreement that the Yugoslav People's Army should be responsible for the implementation of its decisions. Dr Tudjman said he accepted that the army had a role to play in preventing ethnic conflicts in Serb-populated areas of Croatia, but he flatly rejected that only the



army and federal police could enter them.

While Dr Tudjman's statements appeared to slam the door on any real progress, they may have been intended for domestic consumption to ease suspicions that his government had given in to pressure from what in Croatia is considered a Serb-dominated army.

The presidency's six-point plan also calls for the creation of a group made up of an equal number of representatives of the republic of Croatia and delegates from the Serbian minority to examine "all political questions which are deemed to be the cause of the crisis". These issues would include "the right of the people to self-determination and secession".

Earlier in the day, in Belgrade, a spokesman for the federal government said that the agreement "created the political atmosphere that will enable the republics to get talks going on the future and it is especially important that in

the present phase the republics' frontiers are also recognised by all as any unilateral changes, now or in the future, cannot be done without provoking conflicts which could easily spread beyond Yugoslavia's frontiers".

Under the terms of the agreement, both the main protagonists, Serbia and Croatia, appear to have compromised. Before Dr Tudjman's statement, the agreement that only the army and federal police could operate in rebel Serb areas was thought to be an important measure designed to reassure the Serbs, who are haunted by memories of mass killings and genocide committed by forces of Croatia's wartime fascist state.

The clause on self-determination and secession would appear to be an important concession by the Croats, since it seems to open the way to talks about autonomy for the rebel Serbs, which Dr Tudjman has resolutely refused to consider.

Arms trade, page 1

Moscow marchers hit happy note

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY
IN MOSCOW

DEFYING the present chill in Soviet-US relations, young Russians and Americans paraded side by side through central Moscow yesterday to mark Victory Day, the anniversary of the end of the second world war in Europe. Soviet army cadets and an American high school band, led by six motorcyclists bearing the Soviet and American national flags, marched down Gorky Street in front of onlookers, some proudly displaying the medals they had won in war.

The previous evening, in another joint endeavour, Red Square had been flooded for a peace festival and pop concert in aid of the Soviet Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and children's charities. The contrast between this year and last year, the 45th anniversary of the end of the war, could hardly have been greater. Last year at 10am, just as the carnival parade was mustering noisily to



Victory dance: two war veterans in Gorky Park celebrating the 46th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany

start the mile-long trek to the Kremlin, Red Square was hushed for the command that would inaugurate one of the biggest military parades in memory. This year the martial tunes accompanied a cheerful throng that stopped periodically to straighten the lines

and shake out the instruments. Celebrations for Victory Day, usually the occasion for the Soviet leadership to encourage a particularly aggressive brand of patriotism, were this year not only shared but tempered by an acknowledgement of the

many costs of war. The change of tone appeared to recognise a widespread public feeling that celebration was inappropriate. "What victory?" people had asked, contemplating the changed face of eastern Europe and the ruins of Communism around them. Soviet troops

also paraded through Riga and Vilnius. Thousands of Russian-speaking people attended the commemoration, which was addressed by local Communist and military leaders who vowed to defend Soviet power in the troubled Baltic republics.

Armenia fears new attack

FROM ROBERT SEELY
IN YEREVAN

TENSION on the border between the Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan, where 31 Armenians have been killed since May 1, has eased, according to the Armenian government.

Attacks on Armenian villages inside the republic have stopped, although the Armenian interior minister yesterday claimed that forces belonging to the Soviet interior ministry and Azerbaijan militia were massing around Armenian towns near the Nagorno-Karabakh region in western Azerbaijan.

Ashot Manucharyan said: "Since 10pm on Wednesday the shooting has stopped, but the situation inside Nagorno-Karabakh is very tense. We fear that military operations could start there at any minute."

The total of Armenians killed in the fighting, both along the border and in the now empty and levelled Armenian villages of Getashen and Martunashen in Azerbaijan have been officially estimated at 48, although the figure is expected to climb to over 100 when all the bodies are recovered.

Mr Manucharyan said: "The number of victims from the border areas are 13 militiamen and 18 civilians dead, plus five wounded militiamen and 16 civilians."

Yeltsin triumphs in pits

By MARY DEJEVSKY

MINERS at two of the Russian Federation's biggest coalfields were expected to return to work this morning after voting to end their nine-week strike. The decision means that Boris Yeltsin, the president of the Russian Federation, has won a singular political victory and one of the greatest threats to the Soviet and Russian economies has been at least temporarily averted.

The vote by miners in the Kuzbass field, in the Urals, and Vorkuta, in the north of the republic, was taken in the light of the nine-republic agreement signed by both President Gorbachev and Mr Yeltsin. The deal allowed the republics to take over a range of responsibilities previously exercised by the central authorities and it said the coalfields could be transferred to the jurisdiction of the republics if the workers wished.

The transfer of the coalfields from the centre to the Russian Federation was enacted this week in a document signed by Vitali Dobuzhiyev, a Soviet deputy prime minister, and Yuri Skokov, a deputy prime minister of the Russian republic. The subsequent strike ballot, held on Wednesday, favoured a return to work in spite of some misgivings about the transfer of jurisdiction.

Gay Soviet spoof hooks the press

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

WHEN a couple of Moscow wags decided to feed the local press a spoof story about a miner turned gay activist campaigning for the presidency of Russia, they did not imagine it would catch the attention of international news agencies and editors.

The respected business weekly, *Commerzant*, was the glib target of a playful campaign to convince people that Roman Kalinin, aged 40, a former coal miner in Siberia and "leader of the Homosexual party", was running for president. *Commerzant* solemnly reports, in its current edition, that about 700 delegates from two similar organisations - the Libertarian party and the Association of Sexual Minorities - had nominated Mr Kalinin for president at a May Day meeting in a Moscow forest.

To be more precise, the "nomination process" began during the party congress in the woods, but it was interrupted by the police, who accused participants of drunkenness and drug-taking, activities Libertarian party rules by no means prohibit. Proceedings, we are told, had to continue in the flat of Yevgeniya Debranskaya, a colourful Moscow personality and well-

known campaigner for the rights of lesbians.

As the story was being printed in *Commerzant*, another of the pranksters convinced two of Moscow's best independent news agencies - Interfax and Postfactum - to take it seriously. Since then it has been reproduced by leading newspapers of the Russian republic, Italy, Denmark, Greece... and in the last 48 hours caught the attention of both Reuters and Tass.

To set matters straight: Roman Kalinin does exist, but he is a 25-year-old Muscovite science student. He is also editor of an occasional publication on minority sexual tastes. It is true, as the article states, that Mr Kalinin has met the mayor of San Francisco, but not that the day on which this encounter happened has been designated Roman Kalinin Day by the state of California.

Both Mr Kalinin and Miss Debranskaya know the jokers and agreed to play along. Mr Kalinin has had enormous fun answering calls of the world's press, telling Tass that he would open Russia's borders, abolish the army and slash the price of vodka. So much that he is actually thinking of standing for president.



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China defies US as links with Soviet Union mend

By CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AS CHINA and the Soviet Union effectively declared an end to 30 years of cold war yesterday, Peking said it was not afraid of a breakdown in relations with Washington. China's Communist party chief, Jiang Zemin, is to attend a summit meeting with President Gorbachev in Moscow next week. A Soviet embassy spokesman here said that the Soviet defence minister, Marshal Dmitri Yazov, and Chinese leaders had agreed in talks this week that the two countries no longer posed a threat to each other.

Although President Gorbachev's Peking summit in 1989 normalised relations, suspicions remained about military ambitions. Yesterday's statement indicates that such tensions have been resolved and may herald an era of military co-operation. China's defence minister, Qin Jiwei, who will accompany Mr

meant that China has lost much of its strategic significance for American policy-makers. Sino-US ties are at their lowest ebb since the Tiananmen Square killings on June 4, 1989.

Many American congressmen want China's "most favoured nation" status removed because of continued human rights abuses, missile sales and other trade infringements. Diplomats here believe President Bush may be more wary now in trying to salvage bilateral ties. Mr Bush must decide by June 3 whether to renew for another year the trade status that gives Peking's exports to America the lowest possible tariffs.

Adding to congressional pressure on Mr Bush not to renew the accord, Fang Lizhi, a leading Chinese dissident, this week urged him not to extend the concession. Mr Fang, who is doing research at Princeton University, accused China of using prison labour to produce goods for export and restricting immigration. He and his wife were put on Peking's most wanted list after the 1989 killings and spent a year in sanctuary in the American embassy before leaving for exile last June.

The Chinese foreign ministry spokesman, Wu Jianmin, said yesterday that if America withdrew the trade concession "there will be nothing to be afraid of, and China is prepared for it". He acknowledged that the special status was the cornerstone of Sino-US economic and trade relations, but gave a warning that China would reject any American conditions — such as an improvement in human rights — attached to the concession.

"Attempts to force the Chinese government to change its policies by exerting pressure on it will lead nowhere. China's policies... will not be changed by external pressure," he said. "We do not want to see the deterioration of Sino-US relations, but this does not depend entirely on China."



Jiang Zemin: attending summit in Moscow

Jiang to Moscow next week, is expected to discuss sales of aircraft and weapons.

Relations between the two communist giants soured in the late 1950s in disputes over ideology and foreign policy. Clashes broke out along their disputed border in the 1960s. As Sino-Soviet ties strengthen, however, Peking's relationship with Washington is steadily weakening. The end of the cold war between Washington and Moscow has



Armed escort: Lee Gi Tack, the president of the Democratic Party, being taken away by riot police during a demonstration against President Roh in Seoul yesterday. About 20 party members were arrested in the capital and more

than 200,000 people protested in several South Korean cities, some scrawling their demands in their own blood (Reuters reports). Tear gas was fired almost continuously in Seoul as more than 120,000 students and workers threw petrol bombs,

stones and bits of pavement at the outnumbered riot police. About a dozen officers were beaten with steel pipes and disarmed. Their equipment was burnt in the streets. It was the largest demonstration in the city since protests in June 1987 forced

the military government of Chun Doo Hwan to concede democratic reforms. The protests were called by the dissident Chonnamyun coalition to mark the first anniversary of the founding of President Roh's ruling Democratic Liberal party.

Bill breaks grip of gun lobby

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AFTER multimillion-dollar lobbying campaigns and debate of rare intensity, the House of Representatives passed legislation on Wednesday night to impose a seven-day waiting period on all purchases of handguns. The bill is a mouse in itself, but the 239-186 vote is of far wider significance.

For the first time the iron legislative grip of the National Rifle Association has been broken and some semblance of sanity could yet be restored to a land where in many states it is as easy to buy a gun as a bar of candy.

There are an estimated 200 million guns in private hands in America, and they cause roughly 30,000 deaths a year through accidents or deliberate killings. Many more Americans die from guns in their home towns each week than were killed during the entire Gulf war. Last year was the deadliest in American history and a recent congress-

sional report showed a murder rate of 10.5 per 100,000 Americans compared to 0.8 in England, 1.0 in Japan and 1.2 in Germany.

Despite the statistics and regular cases of crazed gunmen running amok, the NRA has until now been able to ward off any significant gun-control legislation by virtue of its formidable lobbying power. It not only contributes heavily to campaign funds, but inflames its 2.8 million members by claiming that any form of gun control would be the thin end of the wedge and a violation of their constitutional right to own guns.

The moment the NRA's power began to wane can be traced to March 30, 1981, the day John Hinckley tried to assassinate President Reagan with six shots from a .329 (£11) revolver. He wounded the president and left Jim Brady, his press secretary, brain-damaged and paralysed for life.

Call to organise famine relief

By DAVID WATTS
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE growing problem of African hunger will take a "humanitarian Schwarzkopf" if the continent is not to be devastated by famine, says the director of Oxfam just back from a tour of Ethiopia and Mozambique.

Frank Judd was "devastated" by what he found: a burgeoning disaster, which seems likely to be worse than the apocalyptic events of 1984-85, with up to 6.5 million people facing famine. Only a humanitarian leader to co-ordinate relief efforts could retrieve the situation, he said. His warning followed the announcement by the United States that it is to broker talks between President Mengistu's Marxist government and the Marxist opposition groups that have been trying to overthrow him since he took power 14 years ago.

The planned peace talks come as guerrilla fighters close in on the capital, Addis Ababa, and the government itself has proposed a peace commission to open talks with the rebels. Fighters of the Tigré People's Liberation Front are said to be less than 100 miles from the capital.

The American-sponsored negotiations are expected to take place in London later this month and are the key to eliminating 30 years of civil war and centralist policies of President Mengistu which have bedevilled the country's precarious food supplies. The meeting will be chaired by assistant Secretary of State, Herman Cohen. In addition to representatives of the Ethiopian government, members of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, the Tigré People's Liberation Front and the Oromo Liberation Front will also be invited.

Leading article, page 19

Transport fails as Bangladesh relief pours in

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DHAKA

INTERNATIONAL relief supplies are starting to pour into Bangladesh. But as medicines, food and tents pile up, formidable transport problems are hampering its distribution to millions of destitute people.

Government agencies, relief workers and aid organisations are appealing for helicopters. Ten days after the world's deadliest cyclone, precisely 11 helicopters are ferrying food to the starving. Care, the American relief agency, said: "We are overwhelmed by the enormity of the task. The situation is getting worse, not better."

Britain is sending two helicopters and the United States has promised five. It will still not be enough. And as if Bangladesh had not already taken enough of a beating, severe storms raged through the south last night.

The inadequacy of valiant attempts to reach vast numbers of people stranded on offshore islands was all too evident yesterday aboard a 300-tonne cargo ship, the MV Raytheon, at Dhaka docks on the Buriganga river. Here, part of Britain's relief effort was being hastily organised to try to help the island of Hatiya, with a population of 350,000. The consignment of goods on board will be enough for 5,000 families for only two weeks, yet getting it to them is a logistical impasse.

Porters were loading the vessel with food, paraffin, matches, clothes and medicine. The £30,000 cargo, part of Britain's relief package, left last night on an 18-hour river route to Hatiya, nine miles off the mainland. Weather permitting, it will anchor offshore today and lower supplies on to rafts and boats. The ship's owner, M. D. Aladuddin, a wealthy businessman, is donating enough bamboo, wood and corrugated iron sheeting to build 100 houses. Britain is hiring the ship from him

cheaply. "It is my duty to help," he said with a smile.

Thirty tonnes of high-protein biscuits arrived in Dhaka by air yesterday from the British Red Cross, the first substantial contribution of emergency food to have reached the Red Cross-Red Crescent in Bangladesh. India has promised ten tonnes of food and clothing every day for the next nine days. Switzerland is sending ten tonnes of biscuits. A jumbo jet loaded with food arrived from Australia on Tuesday, and a large consignment of emergency goods is arriving from the United States today.

It will all have to come to Dhaka, because the airport control tower in the southern city of Chittagong was damaged in the cyclone. In addition, the only runway was



damaged by a tidal wave and it might not survive a heavy battering from relief aircraft. The islands are mostly dependent on helicopters. Few trawler men are willing to risk their boats in the rough weather that continues to pound the coast. Relief agencies are unhappy about using them because of the danger of capsizing. When produce does reach the islands, the only transport available is cycle rickshaws and bullock carts, which are proving effective on the badly damaged roads.

Letters, page 19

Punjab rights record attacked

London — Amnesty International is urging Indian political leaders to use the forthcoming elections to commit themselves to ending seven years of "rampant human rights abuses" in Punjab, where Sikhs are agitating for a separate state (David Watts writes). Copies of the group's latest report, which gives details of arbitrary arrests, torture and killings, have been sent to the leaders of all the parties competing in the elections.

In spite of recent official orders to release Sikhs detained on minor charges, Amnesty says 10,000 Sikhs are being held without trial under anti-terrorist laws that the United Nations Human Rights Committee calls "completely unacceptable".

Amnesty reports that the torture and murder of government opponents is routine. There were 4,000 political killings last year. That toll includes hundreds of Sikhs killed in fake shoot-outs staged by the security forces.

Boat people hurt in camp clashes

Hong Kong — Forty-four Vietnamese boat people were injured in two clashes at a Hong Kong detention centre and one was shot by police during an alleged burglary attempt, officials said.

Two Vietnamese were sent to hospital with stab wounds after fighting broke out at the Hei Ling Chan detention centre. Two gangs of Vietnamese later fought with home-made weapons in a dormitory at the same camp. Earlier, police shot a suspect in a bungled burglary after he was alleged to have tried to attack an officer. (Reuters)

Judge's ruling

Los Angeles — A judge has said an 11-minute videotape of a black motorist being beaten was violent enough to justify the indictment of four police officers. Rodney King, the motorist, has also filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against the city of Los Angeles, the police chief and police officers. (AP)

Convicts killed

Johannesburg — Two convicts helping to push a police van were killed when a car swerved into them in Orange Free State. Police said the van, with eight convicts in the back, broke down on its way from a prison at Vereeniging. A third convict was slightly injured.

Border alert

Karachi — Pakistani troops have been put on high alert after clashes escalated between Indians and Pakistani forces on the line of control dividing the disputed state of Kashmir. Several civilians were reported killed by Indian shelling in Azad Kashmir, the Pakistan-controlled part of Kashmir.

Chuting star

New York — A Texan identified as John Vincent, aged 23, blew bystanders a kiss, let out a whoop and jumped off the top of the 110-storey World Trade Centre, then opened a parachute and glided to a perfect landing. (AP)

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Pretoria 'blind eye' helps Zulus

ANC claims of collusion between the rival Inkatha Freedom party and the state security apparatus in fomenting violence are gaining credence, Gavin Bell writes

A SINISTER pattern is emerging from the mayhem in South Africa's black townships which has cast suspicions on the role of the government and its principal black ally, the Inkatha Freedom party.

There is no longer any doubt that the most belligerent forces in the conflict are marauding bands of Zulus wearing the distinctive red headbands of Inkatha.

Fired up with alcohol and tribal zeal, they repeatedly swarm from migrant workers' hostels, which they have transformed into virtual armed camps, to ravage the dilapidated, matchbox-house communities and the squatter settlements around them.

The African National Congress is far from blameless, having antagonised its rivals and encouraged anarchy by destroying black town councils, which it regards as vestiges of apartheid. But in most cases, the clashes are being fought on the one side by a heavily armed Zulu commando force and on the other by a ragtag army of stone-throwing youths.

Security forces are often

present when trouble is brewing but rarely take action against the Zulu mobs. Reporters cite numerous eye-witness accounts of riot police turning a blind eye to the Inkatha war parties and then training their guns on angry local residents. Police are routinely more aggressive in confiscating weapons from ANC supporters than from their opponents, although a disregard for human lives and property on both sides is apparent.

The ANC has been claiming for months that elements in the state security apparatus are stoking the violence in collusion with Inkatha, to undermine and destroy the ANC. Independent commentators who initially dismissed such allegations are now questioning Pretoria's strategy.

The reluctance of the government to divest Zulus of so-called "cultural" weapons, such as spears and

clubs, and the transparent bias of the police are tarnishing President de Klerk's reformist image. It is widely held that Mr de Klerk's National party is anxious not to antagonise Inkatha, which it sees as a powerful black ally in a post-apartheid era. More than six million Zulus constitute the biggest ethnic group in South Africa.

Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha president, made his views clear last weekend when he protested vigorously against police attempts to search hostels in Johannesburg for weapons. In the event, the Inkatha brigades were tipped off and massed in their thousands to confront the police, who duly withdrew. ANC sympathisers suggest that if the hostel dwellers had been ANC supporters the police would have opened fire.

Aside from the arguments, the facts give rise to disturbing perceptions which the government has

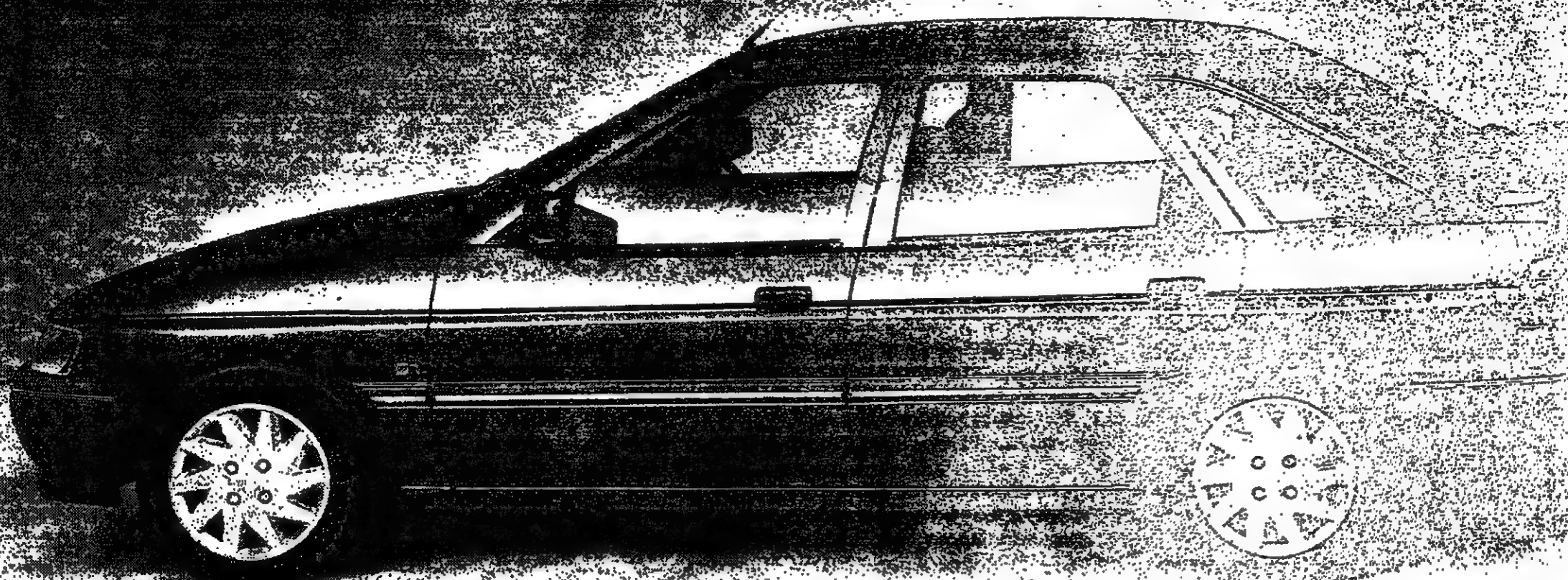
failed to dispel. Its convoluted attempts to distinguish between "traditional" and "aggressive" weapons — between spears and meat cleavers, for example — does not impress those attacked. Its failure to purge the security forces of discredited elements, despite criticism by two judicial commissions into specific incidents, is not reassuring.

The ANC ultimatum to the government which expired yesterday was based on demands for measures to curb the violence. If Nelson Mandela, the ANC deputy president, and his colleagues decide to suspend negotiations with Pretoria, there is a growing body of opinion that they may be justified in doing so.

From where Mr Mandela sits, he perceives the government colluding with Inkatha to destroy his organisation amid the wanton slaughter of his constituents. Mr de Klerk is clearly having difficulty persuading him otherwise. After discussions between them, the ANC said yesterday it would not comment until the full executive committee had deliberated on the outcome.

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When a woman is retired, hurt

Mrs Thatcher's 'shattered' life focuses attention on a problem of retirement

WHEN Margaret Thatcher told *Vanity Fair* her life had been shattered like a pane of glass the day she was summarily ejected from Downing Street, she demonstrated how work investment may not always yield positive returns — particularly for women.

Professor Richard Schilling, emeritus professor of occupational health at London university, says: "One sees what Mrs Thatcher is going through in the man who has been a director of a big organisation, has had a lot of stress, has to go at 65 and has nothing to do in his place. It is possible that, with more women in big jobs, work will become a greater investment in their lives and they, like Mrs Thatcher, may become devastated when they have to leave."

Dr Richard Smith, the author of *Unemployment and Health* (Oxford University Press, 1987) and the executive editor of the *British Medical Journal*, believes that "the evidence is now coming out that the over-55s suffer more than any other group because they are most attached to their job. On the whole, middle-aged women working full-time are much like men."

Employment, Dr Smith says, "gives a sense of purpose in life which, in years gone by, might have come from religion. It gives a sense of belonging to a wider community." For women whose children are grown up, or those who chose a career before family life, the attachment to work can be particularly powerful.

Margaret Howard, the presenter of BBC radio's *Pick of the Week*, who was axed after 17 years with the programme, said at the time: "No wonder men go into a terrible decline when they lose their jobs. Your identity goes. It's not just the money. It's the whole person, swept away."

This week the CMB general trade union released a survey showing that 67 per cent of women put job satisfaction at

the top of their list of priorities, well above pay (33 per cent) and fringe benefits (3 per cent), and they considered it much more important than men to get "credit when a good job is done" (23 per cent).

Anne Moir, the co-author of the book *Brain Sex* (Mandarin, £4.99), sees these findings as a sign that "men are becoming more like women, rather than the other way around: not so single-minded, and looking for enjoyment in their work instead of just money and status. Generally, women are more multi-focused than men, and should therefore be less shattered by enforced retirement since we have kept up other interests."

A recognition that men and women might respond differently to the loss of a job has persuaded the Pre-Retirement Association, an educational charity which advises companies on pre-retirement education programmes, to "explore the idea of creating a special programme for women, who go through different transitions from men." Companies already running successful pre-retirement education schemes include Ford, Leyland-Daf and ICL.

The association recommends "pre-retirement counselling beginning in your forties, rather than just a year or two before you intend to retire, so that you can do the necessary planning to facilitate the transition."

Some women, Professor Schilling points out, can find "looking after a home and having a good social life after an active working life quite refreshing and challenging". But not women like Mrs Thatcher, who told *Vanity Fair*: "Home is where you come to when you have nothing better to do." Nor, perhaps, many of the women in the GMB survey, who may have been seeking in their work a pride and approval they never found at home.

VICTORIA MCKEE



Where now? Mrs Thatcher

Libby Purves meets Ron Pollard, the bookie who sets the odds on Miss World, US presidents — and general elections

To be part of national folklore is a heavy responsibility: cruising through north London in search of Ron Pollard's house, my taxi-driver was expecting a touch of Hugh Hefner with high-security gates and a distant glitter of swimming-pool and limo: something suitable for the most famous bookie in the world. The modest suburban villa, with Mr Pollard outside in a dark Rotarian suit helping Mrs Pollard into her car, was a cruel let-down. "You here already? Marvellous, perfect," said Mr Pollard, smiling the famous snaggletoothed smile. I told him what a disappointment his house was to the driver. "You didn't think I was a Flash Harry, did you?" he said confidently. "Course you didn't. You read my book."

This is the autobiography of a man who left school at 14 to work as a bookmaker's clerk, and who in 1963 ran the first public betting on a political contest. He thanks Christine Keeler for his career: in 1959 he and a friend had secretly worked out odds for the election (accurately, it turned out), but had not quite dared to put the idea to Cyril Stain, the Ladbrooke's boss. The Profumo affair and the fall of Macmillan cast a certain pall of seediness over politics, however, which created an ideal atmosphere for a trial book on the Tory leadership. Although Sir Alec Douglas-Home (now Lord Home) romped home a 16-1 outsider, it was a huge success and the way was clear. Since then Mr Pollard has predicted the results pretty accurately in every general election except 1970, and in all the American presidentials. He also scored a victory over the French psephologists by being the only man to tip Giscard d'Estaing over François Mitterrand in 1974.

He has spent a quarter-century setting the odds on events as various as Miss World, the archbishopric of Canterbury, the Booker prize, the return of Elvis and the likelihood of aliens taking over the British government by 1992. He rules out only "royals, hostages, life and death. I'm really sorry I went along with the Elvis Presley stuff, but it was a Monday morning and they got me on the hop. Apart from the taste thing, if he walks in that door now, we're down three million." He made a fortune many times over for Ladbrooke's, after a rocky start in 1964 when it looked as if he might be wrong about the Labour victory and bankrupt the company. "I rang my mum to say I was going to end it all," Labour won, and the fun began instead.

By this barefaced hijack of British public life Mr Pollard has carved himself out a unique way of life: there are not too many careers offering both the thrill of urgent personal calls from the Commons and the White House, and also the chance to dress up in a false moustache and waiter's uniform at the Dorchester to infiltrate the rehearsals for Miss World.

"Don't think it's all about money," he observes, leading me

Tipping the wink on an autumn poll



Hat trick: Ron Pollard doffs his Grand National boater and waits for the phone calls from candidates

through the spotlessly tidy house to his glass study at the back. "That's not why people bet. It's for ego. They want to be right about something." Any idea that the odds are actually set by a team of Ladbrooke's statisticians and actuaries, fronted by Mr Pollard's PR skill, is scornfully brushed aside. "Experts? I wouldn't believe them. I take in knowledge from everywhere, from papers and books and documents and people at cricket matches, but it's me that does the balancing. The one time I got a professional reviewer to set odds on the Booker, it was a right cock-up. Now I read a bit of the books and then make my own mind up."

On and around the desk cluster the tools of the trade. There is

"In 1987 I was in Kinnock's office. I told him, 'not this time, Neil'."

Hansard and *The Racing Calendar*, a fat, tattered address book in which is the number of the Khrushchev aide in Moscow whom Mr Pollard (a lifelong socialist) used to ring up to condemn the wrong turnings of Soviet socialism. By the time Mr Pollard has been telling stories for an hour, the collection is augmented by a straw hat ("when we saved the

Grand National, there was a rule that all the Ladbrooke's directors had to wear boaters because you can't not feel happy with a boater on") and his retirement present, a bottle of House of Commons whisky with the label signed by both Neil Kinnock and Margaret Thatcher.

All his life he has longed to be an MP. "I've walked into that central lobby a hundred times and not once has the hair failed to stand up on the back of my neck. Either I've been there in another life or I'm going to come back." It would have to be a Labour seat, of course. "I grow up poor, and I always have socialist ideas. John Major's a nice man, but I can't see how anyone who's lived in a tenement and had to cook on the landing can

ever be a Tory. There's a mystery there somewhere." Several times he has been offered the chance to fight a seat. "But I couldn't afford it, could I? It would have ruined my impartiality." This must be jealously guarded: knowing the self-fulfilling value of predictions, politicians often lean on him. "This October I'll have a hundred candidates on the phone again asking how they're going to do."

The reference to October indicates that Mr Pollard has made his mind up: early November for the election, and a Labour victory by a narrow margin. One must absolve him from wishful thinking: he has wanted one since 1979 and refused to predict it. "In 1987 I was in Neil Kinnock's office, and I told him 'Not this time, Neil. You can't do it all at once.' And he sprang up from behind his desk and came to sit next to me with a notebook, trying to show me how he actually could win. I told him no."

He is unable to explain exactly how he works out odds on elections, but shares the secret of the timing. "If he goes into next year, he's lost, right? It won't be June because — because, well, I've been a working-class boy like he has. And if I were in his position, I think I'd want, just once, to be the star at the party conference. That's in early October: then he can send the troops out to fight a three-week campaign." It is notable that back in February, with the prime minister high in the polls, an unimpressed Mr Pollard was saying the same thing. "I could have told them people wouldn't wear the poll tax. Looking into the future, I'll tell you something else they won't stand for: hospitals opting out."

His best successes have been by knowing what "the people" will go for. He has trouble with tennis and with the Oxford professorship of poetry, but has hardly ever failed to pick a winning Miss World favourite. "It's the 500-year-old Chinaman on my shoulder," he says airily.

This Chinaman, his spirit guide revealed by a psychic 40 years ago, has long been a tabloid favourite and Mr Pollard refuses to disown him now. "No, no, he's real. Everyone's got a spirit guide." So if he is supernaturally guided, why can he not get the Oxford professorship of poetry or the Wimbledon champion, and why did he tip Bishop Eames instead of Bishop Carey? "Oh, because I don't listen to the Chinaman, I suppose." An engaging roar of laughter. But he admits his quality of judgment, and recognises it instantly in others. Rupert Murdoch, for instance. "I abhor his attitude to unions, but he seemed a very nice gentleman otherwise. And he's got an eye, like I have."

Books & Society by Ron Pollard will be published by Hodder & Stoughton on May 25 (£14.99)

Kate Muir is on holiday

Being sensitive about safety

A call for an end to government funding for the Terrence Higgins Trust, the Aids charity, has raised a threat to Britain's largest specialist organisation providing counselling and support to people affected by the disease. A government grant of £450,000 a year provides almost a quarter of the charity's income, and is an important signal of the official approval which has helped it win support from local councils, 50 charitable trusts and more than 80 corporate donors.

A pamphlet published this week by Family and Youth Concern (FYC) claims that the trust has sent "homosexual propaganda" to teenagers below the age of consent. It calls for an official enquiry into the trust's activities. FYC says that a member wrote to the trust recently under an assumed name, pretending to be "a gay who is 17 years old" and asking for help in spreading awareness of homosexual issues in his youth club. The trust, FYC claims, sent leaflets describing safe sex techniques in direct terms, and also posters which FYC describe as "erotic... crude, explicit and sometimes degrading".

Attitudes to what is acceptable in publicity about the dangers of sex have changed dramatically since the advent of Aids. References which some people find deeply offensive have become commonplace. The incident highlights the problems the trust has in aiming its message at young people. "We know that we are addressing a number of different audiences," says Nick Partridge, the deputy chief executive of the trust. "It is important to keep putting the message across in the gay community, but it is at least as important to ensure that young people in general know about the risks. Sex education needs to start long before sexual activity."

Material designed to be displayed in a gay club, and to catch the eye of members without being unduly menacing, will naturally be very different from material that might be shown to school children. The trust has produced a video, *Aids, Have You Got It Taped?*, in conjunction with London University's Institute of Education, which will send to those schools which request information.

How, and to whom, the Terrence Higgins Trust directs its information about Aids and its avoidance



Help on Aids: Nick Partridge in the trust's London office

The video is accompanied by an information pack offering contacts for further details and advice and guidance notes for teachers.

"We get an amazing number of enquiries from young people who have seen *East-Enders* [one of the characters in the television soap has become HIV positive through a heterosexual affair] and want to know more," Mr Partridge says. "We do not seek to encourage, but to inform. Our material for classrooms and youth clubs is designed to be used by a responsible teacher or leader. I know of no cases where material has gone to young people for whom it is not appropriate."

Ideas of what is appropriate differ greatly, however. The posters complained of show male torsos and genitals, but nothing approaching vigorous sexual activity. They are de-

signed specifically for gay clubs and are not normally sent out to individuals, the trust says. Whether they are pornographic or not is a matter of opinion.

The output of posters, equivocal or not, is only a small part of the work carried on at the trust's crowded and cramped offices near King's Cross, in London. The frontage is like a shop-front, with a large board proclaiming the trust's name and a window display of T-shirts celebrating hysteria, the trust's sister charity which raises funds through showbusiness promotions of the kind pioneered by Live Aid.

This shop-front was controversial at first among trust members. Some felt that it might provoke attacks, or deter Aids victims from seeking help, in case they were recognised going into the building. On the whole these

fears have not materialised, although security at the door is vigilant, partly because some Aids victims are unstable drug users.

Today the trust has a paid staff of about 60, and hundreds of trained volunteers who man its helpline, and its counselling and befriending services in the Greater London area.

The trust has been criticised in the past as a "gay cultural ghetto" by Aids workers who are especially concerned with other groups vulnerable to the disease. Its recent publicity is aimed increasingly at homosexuals and heterosexuals alike. Evidence of an incipient spread of Aids among heterosexuals has caused a sharp rise in the number of heterosexual men and women who call the trust's helpline. In 1990, 53 per cent of calls related to heterosexual intercourse, and 35 per cent were from women. "As many as 85 per cent of calls are from the worried well," Mr Partridge says.

Health education takes up about a fifth of the trust's budget.

The largest group of volunteers within the trust are the 400 "buddies", who provide practical and emotional support on a one-to-one basis to patients who are dying from Aids. The oldest buddy is 75 and the youngest 18; one in three of them is a woman.

The atmosphere in the office is surprisingly buoyant, considering the grim nature of the trust's work, and the controversies over policy which have affected it, in common with other charities in this field, where emotions are highly-charged. This may be because its staff are dealing with individuals who can be helped in perceptible ways, however inconvertible their ultimate fate. "Everybody knows that young people below the age of consent do sometimes have affairs," Mr Partridge says. "We are not in the business of proselytising. We want to find the most effective means of telling them that whenever they start an affair, gay or straight, there is this virus about which is a killer. The grim reality of Aids is that the worst is yet to come."

GEORGE HILL

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THE TIMES FRIDAY MAY 10 1991

OPERA: MAGGIO MUSICALE

Cinematic eye finds gold in rare Hindemith

Paul Griffiths
applauds a bold
festival production
of *Cardillac*

The present Hindemith revival is offering opportunities to re-examine works that have for decades lain neatly labelled and boxed up in the cellars of musical history. For instance, there is a standard view of *Cardillac*, his first full-length opera (now being staged in Florence), that sees it as a morality play. According to this reading, the central E.T.A. Hoffmann character of a Louis XIV goldsmith, murdering his clients so that he can retrieve his creations, becomes a metaphor for the artist.

But perhaps this was only how Hindemith wanted the work to be seen after his recomposition of it in 1952, following two other operas which more clearly address the place of the artist in society: *Mathis der Maler* and *Die Harmonie der Welt*. After all, his withdrawing of the original 1926 score was itself a Cardillac-like act, and the quarter-century between the two versions had given him good reason to doubt what art might achieve outside the studio.

In 1926, though, he was surely more optimistic, more engaged. His stupefying output of that period does not suggest a misanthropic boarding his treasures; indeed, the volumes of music he produced for children and amateurs convey rather a confident, dedicated sense of social usefulness. We are left with the question, therefore, of how to interpret the *Cardillac* of 1926, and in particular of how, if at all, the opera can be seen as part of a campaign of creative action in society. Liliana Cavani's new production has the boldness to invite some rethinking.

The updating helps. A perturbed fascination with the later-war period is something this production perhaps gains from Cavani's films, such as *The Night Porter*. But by placing the action in the time of the work's composition she allows her cast to explore how much Hindemith is talking about his society rather than about himself.

Suddenly we seem very close to Kurt Weill. Here again is a world of uniform solitudes, a world where the only connections between people are made through money and sex, usually interchangeable. In this context *Cardillac*, treating art as possession, seems an image not so much of the creator as of the consumer, and the opera becomes, like Weill's collaborations with Brecht, a condemnation of the materialist culture that has cramped it into the shape it has.

As Bruno Bartoletti's vivid and generous conducting makes plain, the evidence is there in the music: in the

constrained harmony, the hectic but held rhythm, the melodic openings that always get checked or clogged, the tawdry seductions of debased jazz. These are the sounds of 1926, and of course they feel more naive to a 1991-style production. However, the violence and abruptness in the work are not necessarily answered by the lovingly detailed recreations of Dante Ferretti's sets and Gabriella Pescucci's costumes, nor by the naturalistic behaviour these mould onto their inhabitants.

This is where Cavani's filmmaker's eye sees the wrong picture. Perhaps the luxurious bedroom sprawling over this large stage is an apt image for the rampant mercenary decadence of the Cavalier and the Lady in the first act, but the overload of careful reproduction in the metro-station sets for the framing scenes is counter-productive. The theatre is crueler than the cinema in this respect. The closer the attempt at imitation the more one is aware, however admiringly, that one is looking at a stage set.

If the decor goes against the grain of the medium, so does the action. Cavani will not accept that singing is a legitimate activity in opera, but must always be trying to explain it, or even explain it away, as when the Cavalier has to deliver his euphoric aria as if against another man who is silently trying to calm him down. Moreover, making the piece look normal is no response to its jagged dramatic outline, or to the violent unnaturalness of Hindemith's ways of setting dialogue.

The fact that Cavani was taught by Cecil Collins is significant. Though he hated to be called a neo-Romantic, he was central to the Forties re-exploration of hidden springs. But if she has learned something from Collins, it has not been his minimalist tendencies: she

Ashley Putnam: a sweet and unaffected Daughter which he makes into formalised exchanges or, in the love scene, submerges into purely instrumental conversation. That is just one element that goes to make *Cardillac* awkward to sing and awkward to cast. Here there are excellent performances from Ashley Putnam, sweet and unaffected as the Daughter, from Salvatore Ragonese as a vigorous macho Cavalier, and especially from Marcel Vanand in the title role, singing and acting with great force, and yet showing a heartless hollowiness in the dark scrape of his voice. There is splendid work, too, from the chorus, in a work that begins and ends as much a choral drama as the *St Matthew Passion*.

REVIEWS PAGE 22
Theatre, Concerts
Popular Music

London exhibitions by four contemporary women artists, reviewed by John Russell Taylor

This is wondrous strange

Strangeness may not be enough to make an artist, but it certainly helps. The world that Philippa Clayden depicts is undeniably odd, and her technical ways and means are hardly less so. Curiously, the oddity of her imaginative world pushes her nearer to a central thread of British art, rather than reinforcing her isolation. Though the British often seem to pride themselves on being matter-of-fact, the most consistent trend in art, at least since the Romantic Revival, has been away from documentary and off in pursuit of the visionary gleam.

Clayden's imagery frequently seems to be that of the dream. Her characters are often visibly asleep, resting in the shadow of a hill. Or else, as in the extraordinary diptych *Splint House*, they float effortlessly and fearlessly through the air above green slopes and houses. Even if they are not asleep, they seem to be day-dreaming what happens around them, for surely the recumbent *Couch Potato* is imagining the solitary rider in the distance, rather than having placed his couch on the open upland. An astonishing thing about the world so vividly conjured up is its complete absence of angst. The sleepers sleep peacefully, assured that the bogey-man will not get them; the high-fliers float as confidently in the air as others might in a swimming pool.

Though the material sounds surreal, organised Surrealism is not what comes to mind. Analogies that occur more readily are Palmer and Blake in their pastoral mode, the late Manet in the Arcadian dream-world paintings, and of course the wartime neo-Romantics such as Vaughan, Minton and Colquhoun, who might have contributed the tight, crabbed lines of the basic draughtsmanship.

The fact that Clayden was taught by Cecil Collins is significant. Though he hated to be called a neo-Romantic, he was central to the Forties re-exploration of hidden springs. But if she has learned something from Collins, it has not been his minimalist tendencies: she

is a painter who works well on a large scale.

Clayden is willing, like many of our brighter young painters, to speculate on what her paintings may mean. But like the rest of them, she denies any final authority in the matter. The subject-matter is shaped, largely, by her eccentric use of materials: most of the larger works are on fabric which has been crumpled and cut and cobbled together, so that the intrinsic irregularities suggest figures and landscape forms which are then worked out in a long and sometimes painful process of evolution.

The only explanations Clayden will present with complete authority are technical: she can say for sure that she felt this or that was lacking in a composition, this or that was otiose, and how she gradually shaped what she had nearer to the heart's desire. Clayden has already won prizes and citations, but her new show at the Boundary Gallery indicates a decisive leap forward. Her sense of colour has never been richer nor her wit as pointed as her wisdom. She emerges as a major figure, capable at this juncture of going wherever she wishes to go. She is bound to do it with the certainty of a sleepwalker.

Laura Ford is altogether more capricious. In March 1991 she was writing about a show of her recent works on paper. Now that has been followed by a major show at Benjamin Rhodes, which includes large paintings in acrylic and sculptures on related themes. At the same time she is showing similar work along with Hermione Wiltshire at Riverside Studios. It plays further with one of her pet themes, the ambiguity of the organic world, where what seems gentle may be menacing.

Most of her static works, these days, refer in some way to these alarming reversals of expectation. The fibreglass sculptures of a little girl mangle moppety with menace: she may be Little Orphan Annie, but why is she toting those guns, and why does her head have a disturbing tendency to become something else: a tight cabbage rose or a gorgon-like



Dreamer: Philippa Clayden's *Couch Potato*, with rider in the distance, at the Boundary Gallery

entanglement of shifting shapes? The lambs that bounce through her paintings or stand proud in her sculptures do not appear to be the sort one might care to tangle with in a deserted lane. The interweaved teddy bears in the painting *Shag Pile* appear to be the victims of a murderous assault, and even the flowers are likely to have their tongues hanging out as though they have been recently throttled.

Thomas the Tank Engine forges through it all, unconscious of any problems, but even he cannot finally be invincible. Ford's work should probably be greeted with the sound of nervous laughter: it is funny, but usually also appalling.

Lacy Jones, in her new show at Flowers East, continues to develop her now familiar style. A sometimes

wilfully childlike way of depicting people and objects is illuminated by a brilliant range of Post-Impressionist colours, so that the result is sometimes disconcertingly like one of the early German Expressionists such as Kirchner or Heckel.

Sandra Blow has seemed in the last few years to be in a sort of wilderness — not surprisingly, perhaps, as the Royal Academy's token thorough-going abstractionist. But after drifting around in search of new ideas, she has suddenly pulled herself and her art together, and in the show of recent work at Francis Graham-Dixon she takes on new authority and precision.

The paintings are still abstract, but now she goes in for bolder colours, mostly set off against gleaming white, and strongly de-

fined shapes. Art which was, until recently, woolly has become incisive. The effect is a tonic.

Philippa Clayden, Boundary Gallery, 98 Boundary Road, NW8 (071-624 1126) Tues-Sat 11am-6pm, until June 15.

Laura Ford, Benjamin Rhodes, 4 New Burlington Place, W1 (071-434 1768) Mon-Fri 1-6pm, Sat 10.30-1.30pm, until June 8.

Laura Ford/Hermione Wiltshire, Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W6 (081-741 2251) Tues-Sun 1-8pm, until June 9.

Lacy Jones, Flowers East, 199-205 Richmond Road, E8 (081-985 3333) Tues-Sun 10am-6pm, until May 26.

Sandra Blow, Francis Graham-Dixon, 17-18 Great Sutton Street, EC1 (071-250 1962) Tues-Sun 11-6pm, until May 26.

RECORDS: ROCK AND JAZZ

Heart of the soul of the Sixties

AS HOVIE is to brown bread, so the Stax/Volt labels were to Sixties soul. With a roster including Otis Redding, Booker T and the M.G.s, Eddie Floyd, Sam and Dave, Rufus and Carla Thomas and Albert King, the Memphis-based company Stax, and its subsidiary Volt, created and defined a Southern soul sound that was rougher, blusier and funkier than that of the black pop being produced by the Motown empire in Detroit.

The entire catalogue of Stax/Volt singles from the labels' most influential period has now been gathered together to produce a monumental boxed-set of nine CDs. At a price of £110 and a running time of more than ten hours this digitally mastered, copiously annotated artefact is a fitting testament to one of the most remarkable bodies of recorded work in the history of popular music.

So many of these songs are, quite simply, indispensable "Green Onions", "Respect",

Various Artists: The Complete Stax/Volt Singles 1960-1968 (Atlantic 7-82218-2)
Vers: Utz: Worlds in Collision (Fontana 84884-1)

"Hold On! I'm Comin'", "Sittin' On The Dock of the Bay", "You Don't Know Like I Know" among others. Many more, such as Rufus Thomas' "Walkin' the Dog" and Otis Redding's "Pain in my Heart" provided rich pickings for the first wave of British R'n'B groups such as the Rolling Stones, a process which was later reversed with mixed results when Redding recorded the Jagger/Richards hit "Satisfaction" and the Bar-Kays tackled Lennon and McCartney's "A Hard Day's Night".

Inevitably, a lot of the material is less familiar, although the keen sense of musical identity which binds this embarrassment of riches together guarantees many pleasurable discoveries while



Soulful: Otis Redding

setting the fruits of this golden era in context.

Pere Ubu has been trying for some time to trade in its old "avant-garde" tag for something a little more commercial. As singer David Thomas explained at the time of the group's last album *Cloudland*, "... a pop record was the radical thing to do".

Worlds in Collision is a continuation of that "radical" pop direction, with many a

danceable beat and tune bent in the service of Thomas's pungent, wobbling tenor. "Goodnite Irene" is a splendid mix, with Scott Krauss's crackling snare underpinning a gaily soaring chorus. But, despite the charm of the group's compositions and Thomas's infallibly opaque lyrics, there is always an eccentric twist lurking at the heart of the straightest Ubu song. This is the odd X-factor which keeps the card-carrying Ubu fan intrigued but will continue to throw casual listeners off the scent.

DAVID SINCLAIR

ROCK NEWS

● SOURCES close to David Bowie suggest that he is about to become the first Western act to sign a recording contract direct with JVC, the Japanese conglomerate. An official announcement is expected next week.

● In the wake of his heavily over-subscribed residency at Hammerstein Odeon, Sting announces another round of English dates at Whitley Bay Ice Rink (091 252 6240) Nov 25; International Arena, Sheffield, Nov 26; Wembley Arena (081-900 1234) Nov 29, 30; Brighton Centre (0273 202881) Dec 2; BIC, Bournemouth (0202 297297) Dec 3; Apollo, Manchester (061 273 3775) Dec 5, 6; NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133) Dec 7, 8.

● A nostalgic return to the glory days of sun, surf and song is on the cards when The Beach Boys play BIC, Bournemouth (0202 297297) June 15; Brighton Centre (0273 202881) June 16; G-Mex, Manchester (061 832 9000) June 17; SECC (031 557 6969) June 18; NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133) June 23; Wembley Arena (081-900 1234) June 24, 25. The Boys no longer have a UK recording contract, but to tie in with the visit, Epic plans to release two of their old albums on CD for the first time, including *Holland* (1973), *Surf's Up* (1971) and *Surfflower* (1970).

● Suzanne Vega, Clannad, Janis Ian, Steve Earle, Roddy Frame (of Aztec Camera) and Geese Clark (of the original Byrds) are a few of the surprisingly varied roster of names so far confirmed for the Abbot Ale Cambridge Folk Festival (Box Office: 0223 463346) July 26-28.

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Broadening range

NOT A scat solo in sight: Cleveland Watkiss's collection of songs will be a surprise to those who have heard him only with the Jazz Warriors, after which he seemed destined to remain an acquired taste. Blessing in Disguise is a welcome departure, but is unlikely to please purists.

Looking to broaden his appeal, Watkiss has exchanged vocalising for conventional singing. The commercial production values should win him as much soul and reggae airplay as jazz.

While the emphasis is on crossover appeal, Watkiss makes sure he surrounds himself with reliable jazz personnel. Courtney Pine and Branford Marsalis are the two biggest names, but the outstanding contribution comes from the percussionist Talvin Singh, whose versatile drumming adds flavour to the multi-cultural endeavours.

Watkiss is in fine voice

Cleveland Watkiss: Blessing in Disguise (Polydor 849 075)
Cannonball Adderley: The Best of Cannonball Adderley (Capitol Jazz CDP7-95482)

throughout, but printing the lyrics in full on the sleeve was not such a good idea. The jarring rhymes and agit-prop sentiments on some of the tunes show that he probably needs to shake off the influence of Steve Coleman and Cassandra Wilson.

Strictly speaking, any Cannonball Adderley compilation that fails to include a generous selection from the Blue Note album *Somethin' Else* can only be second best. But, as a retrospective of his tenure with Capitol, *The Best of Cannonball Adderley* holds up well enough, helped by the reassuring groove of "Country Preacher" and "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy".

CLIVE DAVIS

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER presents
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CLASSICAL GREATS
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
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REITHORN... SYMPHONY No 6 "PASTORAL"
06.50 12.50 19.50 112.50 114.50 116.50 118.50 071 928 8800

The negative attitudes of railway workers could be transformed by rewards for good performance, says Janet Daley

By all rights, most of working life in London this morning should have been consumed with catching up on yesterday's lost business, but at the last moment the rail unions relented over their tube-strike threat. The tone of all the participants in the settlement was noteworthy. Conciliatory attitudes are in; brinkmanship is out.

Jimmy Knapp seems at last to have realised that unions need not inevitably cast themselves as saboteurs of productive work and enemies of the customer. In the last year he has metamorphosed from industrial wreck to commuter's friend. As a public relations chief, presenting himself as the champion of a safe, reliable

service certainly beats nihilism. The wording of statements from both sides is now benign. Concern for passengers as a top priority suggests there has been a revolution in union reasonableness, but whether the new image is any more than a publicist's ploy (or a concession to an embarrassed Labour party) would be easy enough to test.

A good many of LRT's problems can be traced to what a tube employee described to me as an "attitude problem" among staff. Most people in the industry agree that the negative attitude in question is the fault as much of bad management as anything else. Absenteeism, bad time-keeping, and general obstructionism are

symptoms of an industrial culture in which low morale has become endemic.

If the unions want to see a reliable, "customer-friendly" service, they should be receptive to the idea of rewarding staff for good performance. Amazingly, it seems never to have occurred to anyone to offer bonuses to transport staff for good time-keeping and atten-

Run the trains on carrots not sticks

dance. Resistance to the idea of merit pay goes back a long way in Britain, and certainly did not originate with the trade unions. The prime minister's new citizens' charter suggests linking pay and performance, but in negative terms: pay cuts for poor work rather than incentives for good.

British management has always preferred sticks to carrots. LRT

and British Rail are only following in that unimaginative tradition. This kind of punitive bullying, in which bad performance is penalised but good performance is not rewarded, has produced a matching thuggishness in the form of union negativism.

What is peculiarly self-defeating about this management blindness is that by concentrating on disci-

plinary procedures for poor performance, the industry lays itself open to militant activism. Justifying a strike in protest over a punishment is much easier than explaining why you are sabotaging greater rewards for your more conscientious colleagues.

Most disastrously for all of the passengers, the idea of punishing the unproductive is extended by government to the entire industry. Faced with an intransigent workforce which refuses to accept common-sense reforms and disciplinary procedures, government is continually reducing its support. Starving the underground into cost-effectiveness produces even greater militancy among the unions, who can blame the

deterioration of service on government cuts.

Now that the unions are talking about creating an industry to serve the consumer rather than the producer, there is no excuse for not attempting to reverse the logic of working attitudes. What about a system of bonuses for 90 per cent attendance and 95 per cent punctuality, and incentives for employees to make themselves visible on station platforms? Why not make a constructive offer to those who would like to give real service to the public? Without improving the work culture of the transport industry, Labour's promised subsidies would amount to nothing more than throwing good money after bad.

Philip Howard

Reverting to hype

I hope that the concert of ageing pop stars organised in London by Jeffrey Archer this Sunday succeeds in raising the £10 million for the Kurds. Having urged them to jump into the quagmire without first making sure that Grendel was dead, we owe them a great deal. Yet the media hype is alarming. It used to be the Americans who went in for celebrity-worship. Their successful generals and politicians were mobbed by gogglers during their civil war, at a time when Gladstone and Disraeli could walk to work across St James's Park unmolested.

We British used to be too reserved to go in for such Gaudian celeb-worship, but not any more, thanks to television and the publicity juggernaut. So the machinery is swinging into action, this Sunday. The names of ever-more starry celebs who have been asked to take part in the concert are leaked as "exclusive" to gullible papers with no news at all about whether they have accepted.

I am reminded of Jeffrey's first venture into hype at (though not up at) Oxford, when he hyped a charity concert by the Beatles before they had agreed to appear. Luckily, Brian Epstein and they acceded.

Live Aid was a huge success for a desperately urgent cause, but it also did no harm at all to the sales and sagging reputation of sainted Bob Geldof. I hope that the stars of Sunday and of Comic Aid and all such worthy jamborees are making large personal and unpublicised contributions to the charities, as well as giving their performances "free". They are only free if you ignore their value in PR and popularity with the punters.

These hype feasts go against a good authority about how to give to charity: "But when though doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth." This does not mean that you should put 20p shyftily and surreptitiously into the collection plate, trying to make your left hand look like a right hand putting in a £20 note. It means that you give to charity out of love and grief, and not for personal publicity, hype, and having your name

called out on television for every-one to marvel at.

Most hype is concerned not with charity, but with profit. For example, Jeffrey Archer's next novel, *As the Crow Flies*, is published at the end of this month in North America, and here a week later. Already the hype mills are grinding. I was telephoned yesterday by Columbia Broadcasting to find out who would be reviewing it for *The Times*, what we think about Jeffrey as a writer, and so on.

We have not received a review copy yet, and will not do so until just before publication day. This is partly to protect serialisation rights, but it is also to build up an atmosphere of hysteria that makes this difficult to treat like a normal book. In a perfect world, Jeffrey's would be sent out with all the other novels published that week, to be read and if lucky selected for review in a straight



Arch publicist: Jeffrey

review in a straight line. Hype and the latest of the review copy make that impossible.

No newspaper wants to be left without a review of a book that has accumulated so much hype, as a rolling snowball grows in importance as it rolls. So some poor sod (and I have an uneasy premonition who it will be) is going to have to read the 234 pages in two hours flat, and give the thing a solid review. This will be unfair on all the other better books that will get no review at all.

The quality of the book hardly matters in such cases. It would be difficult to pretend that Jeffrey writes the kind of literary novel that wins the Booker or the Nobel prize. I predict that it will be an "epic journey" down this century, full of cardboard male characters, strong on the simple emotions of ambition, avarice and revenge, and weak on the more complex emotions of love, grief and doubt. It is written by a man who has a cloth ear for language, though the crasser banalities (not all, I hope) will have been removed by an editorial surgeon. It will be bought in quantities (not as great quantities as the publishers will boast) by poor punters who cannot distinguish between hype and quality. Down with hype. Long live the Kurds.

Putting Danny Morrison behind bars for falsely imprisoning a fellow human being may be the best legal understatement since Al Capone was jailed for tax evasion.

When the former publicity director of Sinn Féin said from the witness box at his trial in Ulster that he had made "a big mistake", he was stating a fact rather than expressing regret. The mistake referred to was the mistake of getting caught. It was an error he will rue more bitterly than others, if only because he saw himself as a candidate for a seat at the negotiating table, to which he fervently believes the British government will one day invite the IRA.

Morrison had already admitted on oath that he believed the IRA had the right to kill informers. Words are important in Ireland. The word "kill" is perceived to be neutral; the police would have preferred "murder", the IRA would no doubt have said "execute". The IRA used to mock the legal system of the state they refuse to recognise, by calling Morrison their own Lord Chief Justice.

He is believed to be the man who passed sentence in brutal backroom kangaroo courts on those convicted of "treason" in a conflict considered a war. And treason carries only one penalty. In the telling words of Alexander Lynch, the informer who believed he was living his last minutes when Morrison arrived at the house where he was held captive: "The only place you go from an IRA interrogation is to the grave." There has never been any legal evidence to convict Morrison of blood crimes, but he is certainly a believer in the "dirty hands" doctrine: that those in positions of responsibility should themselves have been willing to do anything they ask others to do.

At his trial, Morrison's defence was that as a member of Sinn Féin, an elected representative of a legal political party, he was interested only in the publicity value of revealing that the IRA had captured an informer and been humane enough to spare his life. It is a tall tale, given more credence than the practiced public relations man can have hoped for in the lengthy summing-up of Northern Ireland's real Lord Chief Justice, Sir Brian Hutton.

However, the story is not entirely incredible. It is just possible that for calculated reasons of his own, Sinn Féin decided to copy those old-style communist regimes that used to humiliate confessed double agents publicly before sending them to Siberia. But one wonders how long Lynch would have survived on the streets of Belfast after such exposure.

Spokesman of evil

The Times Profile. Danny Morrison, the Sinn Féin front man finally jailed yesterday, is a cold-blooded revolutionary with an astute ability to play to the press



Danny Morrison: being a Republican means never having to say you're sorry

It was a clever defence. Morrison was master of the knife-edge. The line between Sinn Féin, the legal political party, and the IRA, the illegal terrorist organisation, is one of the most keenly honed. Sinn Féin means "Ourself alone", a proudly brandished link to the "glory days" of 1916 and 1921. The organisation takes care to stress that it supports the political aims of the IRA, rather than the IRA itself. That keeps it just the right side of the law.

Morrison was one of the architects of this sleight-of-hand. He is the man who in 1981 put the

concept of going to the polls "with a ballot paper in one hand and an Armalite in the other" into the Irish context. He stood for photographers in a dingy Belfast hall in the pose used by Vasser Arafat in the United Nations. It was a moment of inspired PR that he later came to regret. It made the link too obvious.

Morrison has always been a member of the old school: very much a man of the 1960s and 1970s, an unreconstructed revolutionary. He is an uncompromising abstentionist who refused to recognise the legitimacy of the Republic of Ireland's "collabora-

tionist" parliament, the Dail Eireann. When the first Sinn Féin deputies were elected in Dublin, he was among the most outspoken opponents of them as they took their seats. He preferred jeans and leather jackets to grey suits, and even on the public relations front he is more of a hard man than a smooth talker. Whereas Gerry Adams has expressed regret over some IRA excesses, Morrison believes being a Republican means never having to say sorry.

Morrison worked hard to sell the IRA's aims to North American financial aid donors and shep-

herded agents of Noraid around the backstreets of Belfast. At times, even in the British press, he sailed close to the legal wind. After the attack on the Grand Hotel in Brighton in 1984 he declared the bomb could have forced a rethink "unique in British constitutional political history, apart maybe for Guy Fawkes".

Born in Anderstown, the drab housing-estate heart of Catholic West Belfast, in 1952, on the eve of the abortive post-war IRA campaign, he grew up steeped in the mythology of the bloody "patriot game" of Patrick Pearse and Michael Collins. As befitted a scion of his kind and generation, he was interned in 1971 after dawn swoops by the army on the homes of Republican sympathisers. So he became one of the "Men behind the wire" toasted in bars up and down the Falls Road and the hero of sub-folk-song records sold in Belfast's dingy Smithfield market. It was an appropriate introduction to Republican adulthood.

Morrison had been admitted to Queen's University, the liberal and intellectual forum which saw the birth of the People's Democracy movement, but gave up his studies after 18 months in "John Bull's jail". The experience crystallised his hatred of the English and his devotion to the cause. He converted it into a novel — *West Belfast*.

He was accused of membership of the provisional IRA in 1979, but the charge was dropped. As always until now, the evidence failed to touch the target. Sinn Féin was the semi-responsible face that he learned to show to the movement's advance. When Bobby Sands and the other jailed IRA men went on hunger strike to be recognised as political prisoners, Morrison was their spokesman to the outside world. But it quickly became clear that he believed they would be more use as martyrs. That calculating cold-bloodedness did not stop him showing an astute ability to play up to the press: on one occasion he rescued a *Times* reporter from the hands of aggressive stewards at the funeral of an IRA "volunteer" in Londonderry. The correspondent had the good fortune to have met Morrison the previous night.

Queen's Counsel for Morrison, Mr Desmond Brol, described his client as a man "accustomed to walking a minefield on the verge of unlawfulness". That this is the most that could be said in defence of a man who at the very least consorted with murderers, reveals his true nature.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

I slide between the two stationary American elders, tipping my hat to the woman, because we want tourists to have a good time in London, and the man attempts to lift his tam-o-shanter in response, but you can't do that with a tam-o-shanter, so he sort of plucks at the bobble and the little woolly hat goes up and down without leaving his head, and I skip up the steps of Hyde Park Barracks, and two members of the Household Cavalry put up their bright swords, for the dew will rust them, and a third takes my gilded invitation from me, and at this point a blue flash glints highlights onto the assembled helmetry, and I glance round, and the American's motor-drive is whirring away from the pavement below, because he thinks he has seen something a bit special. He will go home to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and his wife will put out guacamole dip and pickled clams, and they will invite the neighbours in to see their slides, and the man will say, "We were darned lucky to get this shot, folks, this is one of them old ceremonies they have, could be Trooping the Colour, the guy in the tribby is some kinda royal personage, he has terrific manners..."

They do not know it is just a book launch. They probably do not even know it is the book launch season, when everywhere which can be pressed into marketing service, is. They may well have 50 rolls of exposed film in their luggage by now, of Flatford Mill and Greta Green and Stonehenge and Anne

Hathaway's cottage and the Chamber of Horrors and the Tower of London and HMS Victory, all of them packed to the gunwales with elegantly accoutred charmers hooting uproariously and blowing volcano-vent flakes over one another, from which the Americans have doubtless concluded that the British take their great heritage very seriously indeed, flocking to each beloved shrine at every opportunity in order to toast in champagne their good fortune at having so rich a culture to celebrate.

The Americans do not know that these people have convened to discuss dump-bins and plywood authors and Terry Wogan. I am in the Household Cavalry officers' mess, now, shoulder-to-shoulder with several hundred literati, and the man on my left is inviting me to guess the quotation he's had for 200 life-size models of John Mortimer to stand next to the *Times* Regained dump-bins, and the man on my right wants my expert opinion on whether an Aspel interview shifts more paperbacks than a Wogan slot, but when, as politely as I can, I turn from these two unanswerables, I find that I have become part of a discussion between Kenneth Robinson and a delightful actress from *'Allo 'Allo* about Kenneth's ear-problem, so, woefully inadequate when it comes to Eustachian advice, I attempt to move on again, but I trip over a Jack Russell terrier which is hovering up fallen pawns, and the woman who steadies me uses the opportunity to enquire what

sort of dogs I have, and before I reply she tells me that she breeds Bedlington terriers, which used to be called Rothbarrys, and we go on like this for a bit, until I finally spot an author, and I make my excuses to the breeder, but as I back away, the author attaches himself to Rula Lenska, and then, by that curious peristaltic convulsion of packed gatherings I find that I have been propelled willy-nilly against Esther Rantzen, so there is time for a brief animated chatter about child abuse before Desmond whisks her away and the vacuum fills with a tweny temptress who tells me that she has bust her back playing polo, and after I have opened and closed my mouth a few times without much coming out, she asks me why I am here if I don't play polo?

Fortunately, this leitmotif is suddenly picked up, over her shoulder and beyond the huge windows, on Rottem Row, where four polo-players have materialised to trot up and down behind Jilly Cooper for the benefit of the cameras in front of all of them. Jilly is why I am here, even though I do not play polo, because *Polo* is what we are launching.

I wonder, as the gloaming descends over this bizarre vignette, when launches began? Was Tolstoy to be found at Waterloo, nibbling a crisp for *War and Peace*? Did Dickens mount a plywood guillotine for publicity dagneperties of *A Tale of Two Cities*? And what would Kafka have said to Terry, to persuade the world to dip into his dump-bins?

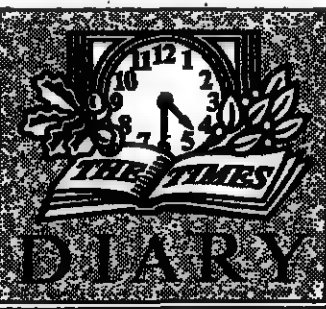
Remembering Ingham

The tables were at last turned on Sir Bernard Ingham yesterday. The man who for years managed the news from Downing Street in his role as Mrs Thatcher's press secretary became a victim of a little news management himself, when *The Sunday Times*, which begins serialising his memoirs this weekend, forced a last minute cancellation of a preview of a BBC film about him.

"It is perfectly simple" says Ingham, who has collected an advance of £175,000 from Harper Collins for the UK rights to the book. "The BBC has cancelled the screening at the request of the newspaper. I am under contract to them and I quite understand them not wanting advance publicity in other papers on what I'm going to say."

Not for the first time, the BBC finds itself in disagreement with him. "This is entirely the BBC's decision," insists presenter Michael Cockerell, somewhat unconvincedly.

The 50 minute film, entitled *Bunkum and Balderdash*, contains Ingham's first public comments on the Westland affair, which according to those who have seen the film, will reopen the debate on the incident that almost brought down Mrs Thatcher in the mid 1980s. Cockerell, who took Ingham back to his Downing Street for one of the interviews, also coaxes him into showing some penitence for his part in undermining cabinet ministers such as John Biffen via his famous off-the-record briefings. But although Mrs Thatcher has seen and approved the proofs of his book, she does not appear in the programme. Says Cockerell: "Her office made it clear she is saving herself for a major British television interview later on," a threat



guaranteed to send a chill through the higher echelons of the Major administration.

As for Ingham, he admits he is less than enamoured with some of the changes that have taken place since his departure from Downing Street. Whereas he would erupt in fury if reporters attributed his remarks to No 10, his successor Gus O'Donnell appears quite happy for the media to attribute lobby briefings to "a Downing Street spokesman". Ingham is anxious not to attack his successor, but says: "The media may well be referring to No 10 more now. If they do it's not a good thing. Maybe the rules have changed."

Permission finally granted to geneticists last week to allow cloning of genes from the remains of Abraham Lincoln poses an intriguing question which ought to keep the Supreme Court wrangling for years. The American constitution only allows a president a maximum of two terms in office. Does the rule apply to clones?

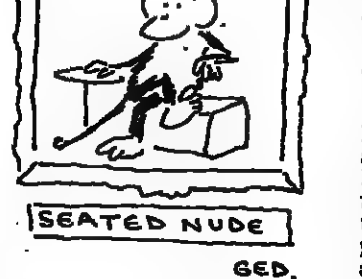
Surreal zoo story

Zoologist, anthropologist and now artist, Desmond Morris admits it has taken him more than 30 years to catch up with the artistic fame of his famous protégé, Congo the chimp. In the Fifties, Morris, whose surrealist pictures went on show at the Mayor Gallery in Cork Street

last week, was curator of mammals at London Zoo, where he nourished Congo's artistic flair. Eventually the chimp's talent was recognised by an exhibition at the ICA.

Picasso and Dali counted themselves among the chimp's fans, and Joan Miro was so impressed that he asked for a Congo original. Morris gave the artist one of Congo's finest, and in return, Miro set to work, there and then over a cup of tea, on a sketch for Morris as a thank-you present. "It

was great to swap a Congo for a Miro," says Morris. "But if I'd known what was going to happen, I would have got a bigger canvas ready."



was great to swap a Congo for a Miro," says Morris. "But if I'd known what was going to happen, I would have got a bigger canvas ready."

Airing his views

Almost 70 years after the founding of the BBC, the last surviving member of the founding quartet, Cecil Lewis, is to be honoured today at a lunch hosted by Marmaduke Hussey and Michael Checkland at Broad-casting House, Lewis, now 93 and living in Corfu, initiated the first London station, 2LO, with John Reith, Arthur Burrows and Stan-

ton Jeffries. Their budget was £100,000, but they had little idea how well the infant service would catch on.

Lewis says he was delighted to receive the invitation from the BBC, having been virtually ignored by the corporation on its 50th anniversary in 1972. Not that he is a fan of much that has happened since. "The light entertainment and comedy is much too noisy and far too vulgar," he says, "sentiments worthy of Lord Reith himself."

The Queen's new land agent at Sandringham has been named: John Major, a 45-year-old manager previously employed at Castle Howard. Buckingham Palace declines to be drawn into speculation on how many O-levels he has.

Yellow corner

The name may not trip off the tongue as readily as Saatchi & Saatchi, but the Liberal Democrats have signed up the agency TBWA Holmes Knight Ritchie to run their general election campaign. It is the first time the party has turned to the professionals, and it has chosen an agency with little experience of political campaigning. One of its staff worked for Labour in the 1970s and another more recently for the Tories. However, neither will be working on the account, which is to be handled exclusively by political virgins.

"We are relying on the craft of our business. We think it will help our political objectivity," says Alasdair Ritchie, the managing director, who received a swift education in the ways of politicians when he walked straight into a row over the value of the account. The agency initially talked about a budget of up to £2.5 million, but yesterday the Lib-Dems insisted that the sum was likely to be little more than £1 million.



HEALTH AND EFFICIENCY

The poison pill Margaret Thatcher left to her party could yet prove to be not just a tax but health. By delaying the reform of the NHS a decade, she bequeathed John Major an election issue of intractable horror. Neil Kinnock knows his pledge to "restore NHS underfunding" is either irresponsible or devoid of meaning. No Treasury team can tolerate an open-ended commitment to a demand-led service, be it defence or health. That has not stopped Labour opposing each efficiency move in the public sector by crying "more money". Mr Kinnock is no gentleman politician. He knows there are votes in playing on the insecurity of the sick. Can the Tories stop him?

Labour's central message in this electoral phoney war is that pledging higher taxation on the better off will appeal to floating voters. Opinion polls support this view. But there are risks here for Labour. Soaking the rich raises little money, while soaking those just comfortable with £20,000 costs floating votes, especially in the South-east. Such is Labour nervousness on this that each tax pledge is hauled back shortly afterwards. The politics of taxation is a science and now has both parties heading for the centre ground. As the Tories push public spending on past £200 billion, Labour is unlikely in practice to push it either much slower or much faster.

This makes the argument over how fairly and how efficiently to allocate those tax revenues far more real. Labour has chosen to make the health service the test of its fairness and efficiency. So far it has fumbled the test. It has ignored the fallacy underlying Aneurin Bevan's original NHS, that it would be progressively cheaper because the poor would become fitter and thus need less medicine. A decade of Thatcherism did not stop the great "free" services, health and education, from sucking colossal increases out of the public purse. Health spending in the 1980s rose by 50 per cent in real terms and education by 40 per cent. Yet at the end of the decade, Labour presents both as electoral liabilities because "not enough" was spent on them.

Labour must know that health care is now a consumer service with wide variations in need. The soaring demand for hip replace-

ment and organ transplant is an instance of this. Answering need requires a tough sense of priorities and some limit if "underfunding" is not to become a national hysteria. The limit must come from rationing or charging, both of which involve unfairness which irresponsible politicians (and health service unions) can always exploit. Despite much talk of patients' charters and quality commissions, no Labour pronouncement shows any indication of how the party would ration health care, how it would fix priorities or how it would stop unions and professional lobbies defending their restrictive practices and pocketing the lion's share of each year's increase in pay.

For while Labour's Treasury team may quietly promise that health will get no more than the rate of annual growth allows — as William Waldegrave said yesterday, this is less than the Tories have given — that is not what Mr Kinnock and his health spokesman, Robin Cook, wish the public to believe. Their undefined "restoration of underfunding" is designed to permit everybody, from consultants to porters, to think that Santa Claus is round the corner. They remain, as ever, a gigantic soft touch.

Mr Kinnock's relationship with the professional, clerical and manual public sector unions is opaque. His party is still beholden to the unions, but he has worked valiantly to see moderate leaders take over from militants and reduce overt union influence in the party. None the less they remain the strongest institutional pressure on Labour: hence Mr Kinnock's inability to bring local Labour parties to heel, cure the extravagance of many Labour city councils or support vital reform to the health and education services. Labour should thus be trapped and vulnerable: not so much the party of public service as of inefficiency and waste in the public services.

This is a complicated message for Tories to convey. Ten years of inertia in health service reform, culminating in a service still centralised under its political leadership, leaves them also vulnerable to the charge of condoning inefficiency. They are aiming in the right direction. But in politics, aiming and scoring are not the same.

NOT JUST AFRICA'S BUSINESS

The economist Amartya Sen once said that famines do not happen in democracies. Today's famines in Africa are the product of government neglect, war, corruption and drought, in that order. The UN World Food Programme claims that 29.7 million are "at risk", a vague term which could mean anything from modest local shortages to famine. Save the Children, focussing on life-and-death cases, believes that 15-17 million are starving or will starve without emergency aid. Even that is a horrendous figure.

Responsibility for the famine in Sudan, where 6 million need food aid to survive, lies squarely at the door of a despotic government. Sudan had a bumper harvest in 1988, a poor one in 1989, and almost total crop failure in north Kordofan and Darfur last year. By last August, Sudan clearly faced serious food shortages. Yet the government continued to export its accumulated grain surplus, to pay for a brutal civil war on which it spends a fifth of Sudan's gross national product. Only in February did Khartoum admit to a "food gap".

Hundreds are dying now and thousands more will die because until January, Western governments bowed to the convention that sovereignty must be respected even in emergencies, and waited for the Sudanese government to appeal for help before sending it. The practical task in Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia and half a dozen more countries is getting food to the hungry. But the underlying issue for the outside world is not famine, but what extremes of misery justify outside intervention when governments cannot, or will not, act.

War multiplies the difficulties of reaching people in need. Many of those most likely to starve have fled their homes, fields and businesses to escape persecution or civil war and its accompanying anarchy. To save lives today, "normal" relief operations may not suffice in Sudan. Trucks are needed to

deliver food, sappers to mend roads and bridges and security guards and to keep food out of the hands of Sudan's soldiers; what is needed is an international task force.

Can and should people be saved by foreign intervention from the cruelty or indifference of their governments? Last month's security council resolution 688 on Iraq's persecution of its people said yes. If so, how? Yesterday, Paddy Ashdown called for a UN task force for Africa. That echoes a proposal two years ago by James Jonah, a senior UN official, that governments should make specially trained military units available to the UN for purposes of humanitarian intervention. He proposed that where governments (or insurgents) refused to admit the need for help, or to cooperate with relief agencies, the security council should issue an order to let relief go through.

A security council order, which would be forthcoming only in direct emergency, would generally be enough to secure compliance. The report should be rescued from dusty files. The keys to preventing famine in Africa may be democracy and peace, and that requires a far more robust approach to diplomacy (and aid). But when civil authority has collapsed and the lives of millions of civilians are at stake, humanitarian intervention cannot wait on politics.

The current difficulties in Iraq underline the importance of putting the protection of relief efforts under the global UN umbrella. The West African task force in Liberia is handicapped by being too local; the factions are suspicious of "neighbourly" intentions. The Organisation for African Unity is paralysed. Intervention never will, or should, be other than a last resort; it will rightly be considered a failure. But governments might take the suffering of their people more seriously if the penalty for callousness were temporarily reduced sovereignty.

OF MICE AND PERSONS

In the heady days of the Sixties, it was hip among the young to claim that there were no differences, other than physical ones, between men and women. Old buffers delighted in complaining that they could not tell girls and boys apart: the girls wore trousers (horrors!) and the boys wore long hair (what was the country coming to?). Those unisex teenagers were determined that when they had children, all sexual stereotyping would vanish. The boys would play happily with dolls, while the girls would pretend to murder each other.

Yet, man, that sexism was hard to kill! Children seemed committed to nostalgia. Boys refused to play with dolls, unless they were male and wore combat gear or Ninja Turtle kit. They stole the guns and swords donated by radical parents to their sisters and left predictable trails of havoc and destruction. The girls persisted in playing quietly and cooperatively with each other, seeking as ever to grow up as nurses not doctors, as homemakers not breadwinners.

Now this is official. A study published yesterday by Manchester university shows that children aged five and six are already profoundly sexist, possibly more so even than their parents. Among the boys, 96 per cent thought car repairs should be done only by men, with 90 per cent for woodwork, 85 per cent for fire-fighting and 80 per cent for climbing mountains. More worrying, 72

per cent thought only men could be scientists. One teacher reported a child in her class who associated sewing with his mother, not his father, even though the latter was a tailor. Another said that when she showed children a picture of a woman wearing a white coat and a stethoscope, they said "That's a nurse", even when it turned out later that their own doctor was female.

Girls were, on the whole, less sexist than boys, the pattern being broken only over who should propose marriage: already nervous at the prospect, boys were keener than girls that women should share this burden. The good news is that role models play some part: children with professional mothers tended to be less sexist. And these days, though the study did not ask, there must be important jobs associated only with women. Some children still cannot quite believe that men are allowed to be prime minister, or even monarch.

So what hope is there from this week's other news, that scientists experimenting on mice have discovered that gender is determined a few days after conception by the "Sry" gene? Sexual stereotypes seem to be as deeply ingrained as gender itself. So presumably the whole problem can be turned over to one of the genetic engineers privy to the mysteries of early life, when he... or she... can get round to it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Assistance for Bangladesh and other peoples in need

From Mr David Blunkett, MP for Sheffield Brightside (Labour)

Sir, I applaud the initiative of all those who have organised the worldwide effort to raise money for the Kurds to be held on Sunday and broadcast on both radio and BBC2 television.

However, given the enormous calamity which has befallen Bangladesh and the projected 300,000 deaths, together with the ongoing and often forgotten crisis of millions of people starving to death in Africa, would it not be more appropriate to repeat on Sunday the initiative under the heading of Band Aid which provided an opportunity to help all those in critical need across the world?

It is not to forget our responsibility to the Kurds to share the money raised with those who are in equal despair.

Individuals will give as they choose but a major worldwide media event such as the one to be held this Sunday should surely spread its net as widely as possible.

Yours faithfully, DAVID BLUNKETT, House of Commons, May 8.

From Dr David Le Vay

Sir, Mrs Lynda Chalker, the minister for overseas development, states (May 4) that countries which adopt sound economic policies and practise good government will get our support.

One wonders whether the corollary should operate: that those who do not, will not. I say this in view of your correspondent's report from Bangladesh on the same day which mentions that 40 F6 supersonic fighter planes were being sent to Chittagong airport while only small transport planes and two helicopters were available to ferry aid from Dhaka.

If the government of a country as poor and disaster-prone as Bangladesh thinks it right to waste its money on military aircraft for which there is no conceivable use at the expense of means to succour its people, what right has it to expect help from the outside world?

after time? Charity must begin at home.

Yours faithfully, DAVID LE VAY, 6 Garstons, High Street, Burwash, East Sussex.

From Mr Andrew Hubback

Sir, Mrs Chalker has replied to the International Freedom Foundation's criticism of British overseas aid policy (May 2) by claiming that "we certainly do not finance prestige projects" and "we repeatedly make it clear that those countries which adopt sound economic policies and practise good government will get our support".

The Overseas Development Administration's 1990 annual report reveals 33 projects costing more than £2.5 million each, including an electrification project in Bangladesh costing a staggering £63 million and a similar project in Pakistan costing nearly £13 million.

On the second point, the largest per capita recipient of British aid is Tanzania, a country which recently outlawed all opposition parties, and one of the largest gross recipients of aid in Asia is the People's Republic of China.

Yours faithfully, ANDREW HUBBACK, International Freedom Foundation, Suite 500, Chesham House, 150 Regent Street, W1, May 7.

From Mr Anthony Farran

Sir, Whilst many will be giving as generously as possible to relief agencies, the circumstances of the disaster and future implications are cause for concern. A present population of some 130 million in an area the size of England and Wales (thus 3.68 persons per acre), depending almost entirely on agriculture, could barely survive in a gentle climate; afflicted as it is by great inundations every two or three years, Bangladesh regularly has to seek international help.

The world community is now devising an action plan to reduce the impact of the floods, a project likely to cost hundreds of millions of pounds. This will inevitably have to be a gift also. With population growth rate 3.1

per cent there will be some 170 million people by the year 2000 (5 persons per acre). It is the inexorable pressure of this growth that forces occupation of land so disastrously vulnerable to flooding.

Bangladesh is a perfect example of a country that needs an appropriate population plan. Implementing one should be part of the deal for the execution of the flood plan which otherwise would have a rapidly diminishing effect on Bangladesh's aggregate problem.

Yours faithfully, ANTHONY FARRAN, Silver Lodge, The Park, Great Barton, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, May 4.

From Mr Julian Hopkins

Sir, CARE, like many other voluntary agencies, is currently involved in relief operations in Bangladesh, Turkey/Iraq and Africa. It has come to our notice that when the world responds to such disasters, chaos often ensues, and then, in the bitter aftermath, fingers are pointed and blame laid. If only the energies devoted to this activity were channelled into pre-planning for emergencies, then fewer lives might be lost.

CARE's experience in Bangladesh, for example, where we have assisted the poorest people of that country for many years, shows that if you have people and stores in place before disaster strikes, you can respond quickly and effectively. Within hours of the recent cyclone occurring CARE had launched a large-scale relief operation targeting 10,000 families with life-saving supplies.

There is much talk of compassion fatigue, yet the number of disasters should not have any bearing on the rest of the world's ability to deal with them, providing that governments and voluntary agencies work for increased cooperation and pre-planning.

Yours faithfully, JULIAN HOPKINS (National Director), CARE Britain, Dudley House, 36-38 Southampton Street, WC2, May 8.

State, Pope and public freedom

From the Bishop of Stratford and Auxiliary in Southwark

Sir, Your report (May 3) of the encyclical letter of Pope John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus*, and the excerpts from the encyclical are most welcome. The letter is lengthy and contains many notable insights on a great variety of social questions. Therefore it is not easily summarised.

However, I believe that in the last paragraphs of your third leader ("Bridging capitalism", May 3) you have not done justice to two of the central themes of *Centesimus Annus*: one is the notion "solidarity", the other is the measure of state intervention in spiritual matters.

For Pope John Paul "solidarity" is shorthand for the recognition by human beings of our interdependence not only at the practical level but also for the sustaining of moral values. It is not simply a matter of the importance of trade unions or a sense of the collective good.

The Pope gives clear guidance in a number of matters as to both the obligations and limitations of state intervention in private and public social concerns. The balance to be achieved by the state in matters of promoting the common good while preserving individual freedom is expressed by the term "subsidiarity".

I can find no basis in the text of *Centesimus Annus* for your leader's claim that the Pope is advocating any form of direct intervention on the part of the secular power to force its citizens to live "spiritually". In view of this difference of opinion perhaps both the writer of your leader and I will be moved to give yet a further reading of the encyclical. I am sure that we will both profit by this.

I am, devotedly yours in Christ, JOHN JUKES (Chairman, World of Work Committee, Episcopal Conference of England and Wales), The Hermitage, More Park, West Malling, Kent, May 3.

Festival anniversary

From Lord Mishcon

Sir, In your editorial, "Festival millennium" (May 8), which heralded the 40th anniversary of the Festival of Britain you comment that fewer than half of your readers are old enough to have enjoyed it.

It is my privilege to belong to a much smaller category having been a member at that time of the "inner cabinet" of the London County Council which so effectively co-operated with Herbert Morrison in this venture.

This was the period during which the old LCC under the leadership of the late Sir Isaac Hayward was responsible for the whole concept of the South Bank as a cultural centre and which saw the birth of the Royal Festival Hall (built out of London's rates) to be followed by the Queen Elizabeth Hall and the Hayward Gallery.

Should not that great local authority (as indeed it was) be remembered on this anniversary with gratitude? History may also remember, but with different sentiments, the government which for purely political reasons brought the days of the old LCC to a close.

Yours truly, VICTOR MISHCON, House of Lords, May 8.

Insurance commission

From Mr Peter Tarrant-Willis

Sir, The Law Society has criticised the government for failing to protect the consumer adequately (report, early editions, May 1). Your legal affairs correspondent writes that banks and building societies will not be accountable to their customers for insurance policy commissions received when they move into the conveyancing market. They will be making the most of a captive market.

There will not be a level playing field for all the players in conveyancing, nor for that matter will the principle of conflict of interest have a clear view of the field of play.

Lawyers, both in and out of Parliament, might care to think hard on this issue. Financial advisers/practitioners are already facing the problems of dealing with competition from conglomerate institutions. An aggrieved Law Society will be welcome as an ally to help to redress the balance in favour of consumer choice and protection.

Yours faithfully, PETER TARRANT-WILLIS, 108 Mill Lane, West Hampstead, NW6, May 1.

Doubtful compliment

From Mrs Rebecca Baddiel

Sir, Junk mail is not the sole cause of involuntary postal sex-change (letters, April 22, 30, May 6). My brother, having been registered with his GP for several years, received a letter inviting him to attend for a cervical smear test.

Yours faithfully, REBECCA BADDIEL, 22 Leaside Crescent, NW11.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

Doubts over tanks

From Mr C. Nixon-Eckersall

Sir, It appears that a government decision on the purchase of new main battle tanks is imminent (report, April 25). However, before large sums are committed (and up to £600 million has been quoted), the taxpayer should seek the answer to two questions.

First, against whom are main battle tanks to be used? It seems increasingly improbable that they will be necessary in the emerging Europe. As the build-up to the Gulf war showed, they are difficult to transport. Furthermore, it must be unlikely that the planners of future military actions will be allowed the unbelievably leisurely preparations afforded in this instance by the Iraqis.

Second, why Challenger II? Challenger I has a reliability record in Germany which, at best, is unenviable.

Manipulative moggies

From Mrs John Nichols

Sir, The view expressed by Mrs Sonia Gable in her letter (May 2) is well established. Over 20 years ago (November 4, 1970) the following was included in your parliamentary report:

Mr Anthony Stodart, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, in a written reply, said: We do not intend to start licensing cats. It would not reduce the number of stray ones, and it would be expensive to administer as well as difficult to enforce because of the propensity of this animal to decide for itself where it will live and to whom it belongs.

How right!

Yours faithfully, PAMELA M. NICHOLS, Flat 1, 36 Buckingham Gate, SW1, May 4.

A queen's identity

From Dr David Starkey

Sir, Could I clarify a point in John Rees Taylor's review (Arts, May 1) of the Henry VIII Exhibition at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich? The identification of the Buccleuch miniature as Queen Anne Boleyn was first suggested in print not by me but by Sir Roy Strong in 1983. He did so on the basis of the sister's dark, lustrous eyes.

The exhibition reinforces the suggestion by relating the miniature and considering the heraldry of the

sister's brooch. None of these arguments is conclusive in itself; it is the combination of them which makes a powerful case as the first, and indeed the only, authentic portrait of Henry VIII's second queen.

Yours faithfully, DAVID STARKEY (Historical consultant to Henry VIII Exhibition), The London School of Economics and Political Science, Department of International History, Houghton Street, WC2, May 1.

Thames's quality control, which has been praised by HMI for the way it has handled previous mergers.

No reasons have been given by the Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council for the rejection of the proposed merger and we are left with a can-bought sale approach to education where, if I may mix my metaphors, voters are invited to pick over the murdered corpse of education in south-west London.

This approach can be of no benefit to students, staff or the prospects of higher education in general, which this government has pledged to expand and improve. The students are having their studies disrupted at the most crucial time of the year, in the run-up to exams, and can hardly be expected to perform well when they have no

idea of where they will be studying next. There has been no mention of the fate of the staff, who, as you have reported, are generally praised by the students. Nor has mention been made of the fate of the further education work of the college and its staff, who have established a fine local reputation for attracting adult returners, particularly those from ethnic minorities, back into education. Is this work simply to be allowed to wither away?

Yours, PAUL NEILSON (Chairman, South West London College coordinating committee, National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education), 25 Pineham Close, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, May 4.

College closure

From Mr Paul Neilson

Sir, The real tragedy of the proposed closure of South West London College (reports, May 3) is that there was a perfectly reasonable solution to the very real problems raised by HMI: namely, merger with Thames Polytechnic.

Criticism of the higher education courses relating to poor accommodation, management and quality control were being redressed. Courses had already been moved into more suitable accommodation at Roehampton and more were to follow in September.

The legacy of poor management would have been removed by a merger with Thames. The college would also have come under

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BBC 1

- 6.00 Ceeba 6.30 BBC Breakfast News
9.05 Gloria Live. Gloria Hunniford is joined by MPs Sir Norman Fowler, Harriet Harman and Rosie Barnes in a discussion on the unsolvable hours of the House of Commons 9.50 *Dish of the Day*. Another recipe for those in need of inspiration in the kitchen
10.00 News, regional news and weather 10.05 Playdays (r) 10.25 *Butterfly* (r) 10.35 Turnabout. Fast-paced word association quiz (r)
11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 *People Today*. Adrian Mills and Matt Maciver discover the unusual experiences of people around Britain
12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.05 Travel Show Extra. A look at holidays in Sardinia and the Giant's Causeway in Ireland
12.20 *Scene Today*. Live entertainment, music and chat from the M1. Among the guests are Peter Cushing and Richard O'Brien
12.55 Regional News and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather 1.30 *Neighbours*. (Ceeba)
1.50 *Film: Honey Tox* (1991, b/w). Brisk comic Western starring Clark Gable as a charming but incorrigible trickster who arrives in the boomtown of Honey Tox, Nevada, determined to find position and wealth. Romance crosses his path in the attractive shape of Lana Turner, he becomes sheriff and accumulates a small fortune. It is not long, however, before the townspeople smell a rat. Directed by Jack Conway
3.30 *Betty Boop* 3.50 *Quick Draw McGraw* (r) 3.55 *A Bear Behind*. Boz and Lindsay organise a party (r) 4.10 *Rude Dog* and the Dweebs. Animated adventures (r) 4.25 *The Legend of Tim Tyler*. First of a 13-part children's fantasy series set in Germany about a boy whose irresistible laugh always gets him out of trouble (r)
5.00 Newsround 5.10 *The Girl From Tomorrow*. Drama series about a girl from the year 3000, thrown back in time to 1980s Australia. (Ceeba)
5.35 *Neighbours* (r). (Ceeba) Northern Ireland: Sportsweek 5.40 *Inside Ulster*
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Maura Stuart. (Ceeba) Weather
6.30 Regional News Magazine. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 *Wogan*. The guests are Richard Briers (son of H.E.) and his mother, Midge, Lord and Lady Tennyson, and Dorset oyster farmer Neville Copperthwaite. Music is provided by Whyllife
7.40 *Joint Account*. Feeble role-reversal comedy starring Hainish Gordon as bank executive Belinda Brattwhite and Peter Egan as her stay-at-home husband (r). (Ceeba)
8.10 *You Rang, M'Lord?* *Upstairs Downstairs* take the H-De-Hi moment in the family. Jeffrey Holland and Paul Shane in an unremarkable cross-class sitcom (r). (Ceeba)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceeba) Weather
9.30 *The Sharp End*. Amusing dead-collection comedy-drama starring Gwen Taylor as Celia Forrest, head of a collection agency. Wealthy businessman Mel Westbury (Peter Riegert) is reluctant to pay a £7,000 bill for repairs to his flat in Wexham, he is a case the self-righteous Celia cannot resist. (Ceeba)



Solidarity with the victims of war Sir Peter Ustinov (10.20pm)

- 10.20 *Light the Darkness*. Launching a worldwide "chain of light", Sir Peter Ustinov celebrates the Geneva Convention and highlights seven humanitarian issues: orphans of war, child soldiers, refugees, prisoners, civilian casualties, separation of families and torture. He is joined by Anthony Hopkins, Roger Moore, Glenda Jackson and David Niven in the Avenue of Peace in Geneva for a concert by the London Chamber Orchestra to mark solidarity with the worldwide victims of war. (Ceeba)
11.20 *Film: I, Monster* (1970). Horror veterans Christopher Lee and Peter Cushing team up for another Hammer vampire on the Jeffrey and Hyde theme. Dr Charles Marlowe (Lee) develops a drug that he hopes will release his inhibitions and reveal his inner self. Using himself as a guinea pig, he discovers the serum has alarming side-effects which involve the inevitable rundering spree. Low budget material. Invisibly directed by Roy Ward Baker. Weeks. Weeks. *Rugby Special* 11.45 *Film: I, Monster* (1970)

12.40pm Weather

BBC 2

- 6.45 Open University. Elements followed. Ends at 7.10
8.00 News 8.15 Westminster
9.00 Daytime on Two
2.00 News and weather followed by Words and Pictures 2.15 Weekend Outlook (r) 2.20 *Student Nurse*. An insight into the trials of life for a student nurse (r)
3.00 News and weather followed by Food and Drink (r) 3.50 News, regional news and weather
4.00 *Call My bluff* (r) 4.10 *What the Papers Say* with Peter Jenkins of *The Independent*
4.30 *Plunder*. Keith Waterhouse travels through the BBC's archives
5.00 *Summertime* by Bella. An Edwardian childhood as seen through the eyes of John Betjeman (r)
6.00 *Film: Doc Savage - The Man of Bronze* (1975). Roy Ely, of Tarzan fame, plays Doc Savage, the superhuman leader of the "Amazing Five" team of industrialists who are pitted against the ruthless Captain Steel. Paul Verity, a writer and a spoof, directed by Michael Anderson. Wales: *A Way with Numbers* 6.25 When in France 6.50 *Discovering Portuguese* 7.15-7.45 Wales in Westminster
7.35 *Animation Now*. *The Night Visitors*, made by Richard Olive. What the Papers Say with Peter Jenkins of *The Independent*
8.00 *Public Eye*. Health. Service. *Secret Service*. A report on mounting concern that the reorganisation of the NHS is eroding health workers' freedom to highlight the problems in the service
8.30 *Gardeners' World*. Heather Angel, former president of the Royal Horticultural Society, gives a masterclass in garden photography



Alternative comedy: humour from a black perspective (8.00pm)

- 8.00 *The Real McCoy*.
CHOICE: A new comedy series written and performed by black comedians, according to its producer Charlie Hanson, "in air ideas and characters you wouldn't see on other British television comedy shows". The ambition to present a black perspective is only sporadically realised in tonight's opener, despite the influence of Larry Henry who acted as a guru for the series. The opening sequence, a lengthy spoof on breakfast television, could have come out of any comedy programme and so could a sketch about a boxer who wonders why his opponent keeps hitting him. There is a hint of political satire in a joke about becoming the Tory MP for Cheltenham and a mildly astringent sketch in which the show's sole white performer recites racist clichés over a canteen meal. But the show is not out to score political points and if the quality is uneven, there is no denying the potential talent

- 8.30 *Your Life in Their Hands: Striving for Perfection?*
CHOICE: This edition on cosmetic surgery contains the usual sequences in the operating theatre (not recommended after a heavy meal) but ranges into areas beyond the strictly medical. Face-lifts, nose jobs and the like are usually associated with the vanity of the showbusiness set. This film is about three ordinary people anxious about their appearance and desperate to improve it. Wendy was left with folds of skin after losing 15 stone and is too embarrassed to be seen in a swimming costume. David is sensitive about his protruding ears. Angela hates her prominent nose, although her family and friends see nothing wrong with it. None can be considered an emergency case and the National Health Service has only half the plastic surgeons needed to meet demand. But the programme argues that when cosmetic surgery can transform a person's life, it cannot be dismissed as vanity. (Ceeba)
10.20 10 x 10: Back to Eden. A very tale of a future where near-extinct vegetables have assumed the market value of precious minerals
10.30 *Newsnight* presented by Peter Snow. Includes Franchise Stock reporting from the Scottish Conservative party conference in Perth 11.15 *Weather*
11.20 *La Strada* (1956).
CHOICE: Before *La Strada* Federico Fellini was a promising young Italian film-maker with only a modest reputation outside Italy. After it he was a director of international standing who never looked back. *La Strada* won the Oscar for best foreign film and was a huge commercial success. Nino Rota's haunting music adds huge moments of pathos. Fellini built the film from simple ingredients. His heroine, Gelsomina (played by his wife, Giulietta Masina) is a Chianti peasant who is sold to a brutal street entertainer (Anthony Quinn) and becomes a circus clown. She falls in love with him. Her affections are not returned but she remains cheerful and resilient. Much critical ink has been spilled over the Gelsomina character. Is she oppressed or, on the contrary, her own woman? It hardly matters. Masina's wonderfully expressive and moving performance bypasses theory and goes straight to the emotions. *Epitaph at 11.45* *Film: La Strada* (1956)

- 12.40pm Weather
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Labour to give options for early retirement

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leadership is considering radical changes to pensions policy that would allow large groups of people to retire early on full state pension. The party has also outlined plans for abolishing incentives to encourage people to join private pension schemes, and for improvements to the state scheme. The incentive scheme costs £600 million a year.

The Conservative party said last night that Labour was pursuing a vendetta against personal pensions. Tony Newton, the social security secretary, said Labour's plans could deny millions of people real choice over their pension by pushing their savings back "into Labour's hugely expensive state pension plan".

Michael Meacher, the shadow social security secretary, said that Labour was studying proposals to allow workers in heavy manual trades to retire early. This would mean people

in specified occupations could get the full pension at a younger age than normal, and workers would be given the chance to continue working part-time during a "decade of retirement" while they drew part of their pension.

A scheme for the state pension to be paid at a higher rate for older people — with, for example, a top-up pension for people aged over 80 — is also being studied. Labour is considering letting people retire below state retirement age once they have completed a specified number of years, possibly 40, in the state retirement scheme.

Labour is considering the options in an attempt to give men and women a "decade of flexibility" between the ages of 60 and 70. They would be free to retire on full pension or to continue in work without discrimination on age grounds. The cost of the proposals are being worked out and Labour sources admit they would be expensive. The government has estimated that it would cost £3 billion to introduce a retirement age of 60 for both men and women.

Townships riven as talks fail

Continued from page 1

reached on most issues, but that others required further discussion.

However, as Mr de Klerk issued his statement, residents of Tembisa township, north-east of Johannesburg, were fighting with AK47 rifles and pistols, killing at least six people and wounding five seriously. A police officer, Colonel Johan Mostert, said: "It seems that the ANC was responsible."

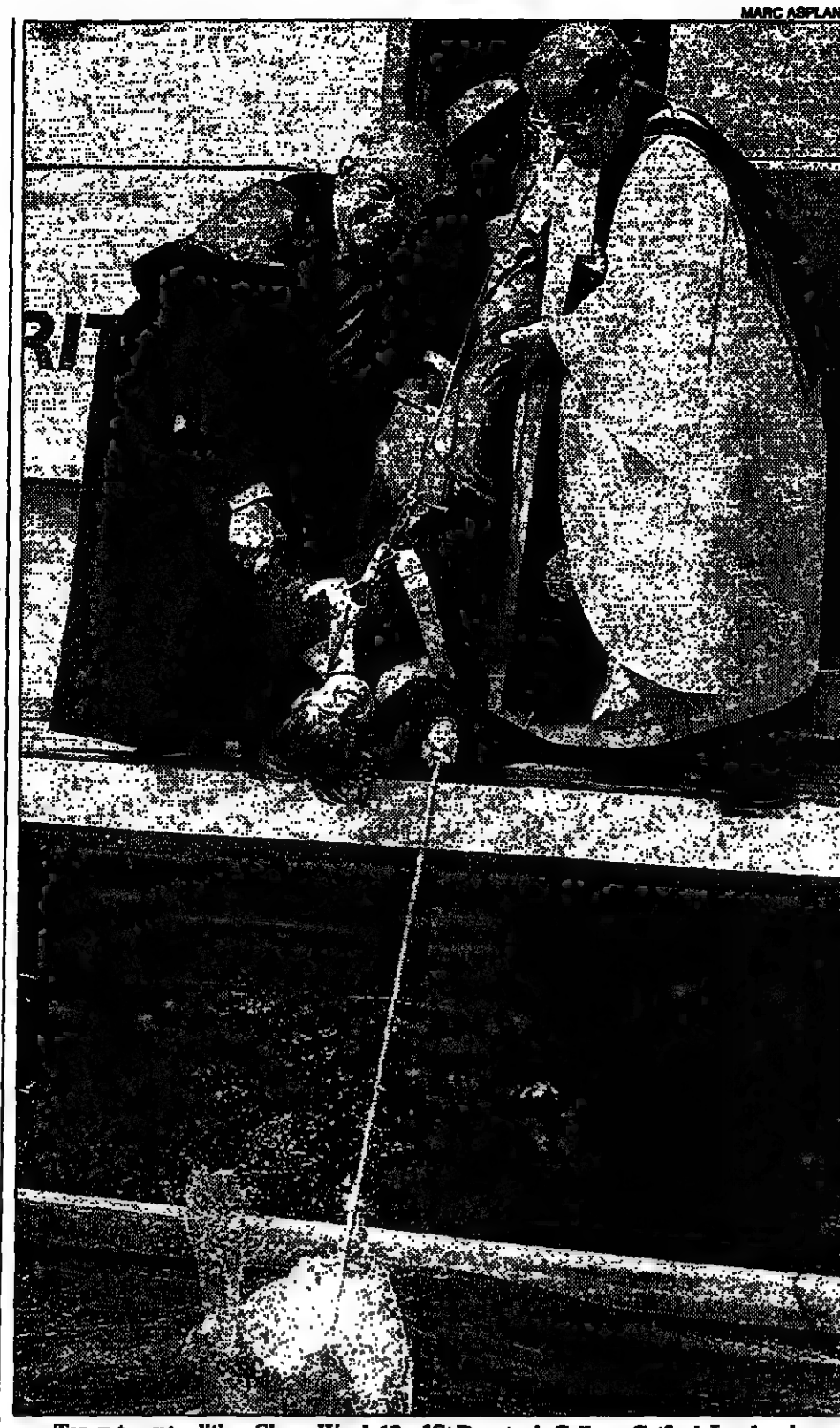
On the question of traditional Zulu weapons, such as spears, Mr de Klerk said that Pretoria was not prepared to ban them "at this stage". They were excluded from a ban on the public display of dangerous weapons that took effect in six townships around Johannesburg yesterday.

The ANC has demanded that all weapons be banished from township streets. It was unclear whether the ANC would carry out its threat to suspend negotiations with Pretoria if its demands for various measures to curb the violence were not met.

Mr Meacher said out Labour's pension plan proposals in a speech to the Association of Pension Lawyers. The plans follow last week's public accounts committee report, which estimated that the cost of incentives and rebates for the four million people expected to quit the state earnings related pensions scheme (Serps) for private personal pensions could be £6 billion.

People leaving Serps are entitled to rebates from their contributions into the National Insurance fund. The rebate is 5.8 per cent of relevant individual earnings. If they join private schemes rather than occupational schemes, they receive an extra 2 per cent rebate of the sums they have paid.

Mr Meacher said yesterday that the 2 per cent incentive meant that those who contributed to the state scheme were being forced to provide a bribe for those who opted out. Mr Newton said Mr Meacher's hostility to personal pensions was long-standing and Labour would have to impose a massive tax to pay for their promises.



Topsy-turvy tradition: Simon Ward, 12, of St Dunstan's College, Catford, London, is held over the Thames yesterday to "beat the bounds" of All Hallows by the Tower parish. It was the first time on water for the medieval custom, revived 15 years ago

£10m scheme for enhancing Stonehenge

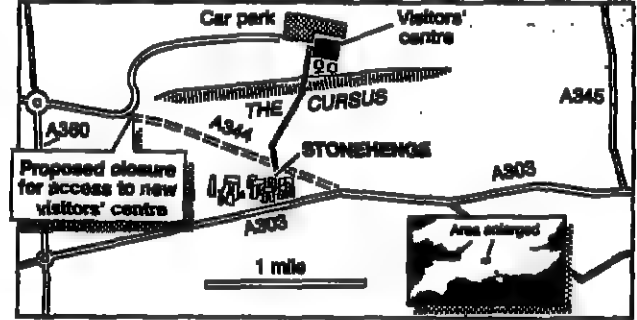
By JOHN YOUNG

ENGLISH Heritage and the National Trust yesterday published their plan for a £10 million transformation of Stonehenge.

Soon after it was privatised seven years ago, English Heritage said one of its overriding concerns was to free Britain's greatest ancient monument from traffic and the visual intrusion of buildings. The long delay was caused by the defence ministry, which refused to give up land for a new access point until Margaret Thatcher, then prime minister, ordered it to.

The plans now published include closing the A344, which runs immediately past the stones, and creating a new entrance and visitors' centre about five-eighths of a mile to the north at Larkhill, beyond the ancient Curcus causeway. There would also be improved catering facilities and carefully screened parking.

Gerald Allison of Deben-



Weapons flow in for ethnic militias

Continued from page 1

intelligence tracked the deal which, when it was revealed, proved to be a profound embarrassment to the Hungarian government. The Hungarians first denied the deal and then defended it, arguing that it was a legal transaction since Yugoslavia was not officially a "crisis zone". The Hungarian supply route immediately dried up and Zagreb started to look further afield.

Since most of the Yugoslav arms industry is on Serbian territory and close to the Serbian-dominated Yugoslav army, the Croats felt that they had no choice but to make deals outside the country. The Croatian government has been recruiting men for its self-defence force and, according to perhaps inflated estimates, there are now 40,000 under arms.

The prices of automatic weapons are at an all time low — partly because of east German stocks, partly because of the arms embargo against Iraq and troop cuts in Europe — so the Croats have had no problem in securing supplies. It is enough to study a member of the new Croat police: camouflage uniform imported from Germany, reinforced plastic helmets from France, American or Russian automatic weapons and British boots.

All the east European suppliers, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary as well as Germany, have strict export guidelines and turn down customers in "areas of tension", but Yugoslavia, despite its perpetual tensions, is on no one's list. Both the Croatian and the Slovenian leaderships have become very free in issuing private gun licences. These form the bulk of the customers crossing into Austria.

Political sketch

A man who must not say 'porpoise'

I ARRIVED at the Commons to find the minister of agriculture, John Selwyn Gummer, on his feet in a flight of passionate oratory on behalf of porpoises.

This minister should say "dolphins". There may be politicians who can pronounce the word "porpoise" without looking funny, but Mr Gummer is not one of them. There is something horribly risible about the juxtaposition of "Gummer" with "porpoise". His face and mouth form themselves almost automatically into the round "o" of the dominant vowel. His little eyes bulge naturally with that hint of dignified affront conveyed by the very sound. There is a sense in which this minister's whole being, the dignity and majesty that is Gummer, invites a cheeky shout of "porpoise".

"And no one must be in a... doubt about our commitment to the protection of the whale," added Mr Gummer, for good measure. This was a mistake too, as it got Geoffrey Dickens going. Anything more like a whale you are unlikely to find on land. As always with the MP for Littleborough and Saddleworth, it was clear that his heart was in the right place but that it was engaged to his brain. Dickens was on auto-pilot.

"Whales throughout the world are being slaughtered... and many species are getting rather low." He paused.

The pause was a mistake. It let in Dennis Skinner's shout of "Declare your interest!" Mr Dickens wallowed on through waves of laughter, spouting: "What can the minister do to reverse these dreadful trends?"

Not much, it seemed, but shared outrage was what another minister, David Maclean, offered Harry Greenway (C, Basing N). Mr Greenway famously rides British horses and equally famously wants to stop

Frenchmen from eating them. "We're in harness on this one," whooped Mr Maclean, to general groans.

The minister went on to agree that there was too much transporting of live animals in Europe and he would do his best to persuade the Europeans to kill them first. "But I cannot dictate to consumers in what form they should eat their food," he added, alarming us with the thought that continentalers eat their animals alive.

On question eight, outrage peaked. North of the border (The SNP's Andrew Welsh, from Angus, told us) "the Scottish raspberry industry" is under threat. Scots are being engulfed by "a flood of cheap imports". MPs gasped at this vision of a squelchy red tide rolling in from abroad. Mr Gummer tried in vain to calm the House.

"I'm well aware," he burred, "of the importance not only of the Scottish raspberry industry, but of the soft fruit market as a whole."

Soft fruit as a whole? Why? Do bananas were loom behind the raspberry tide? Will melons roll in from all sides? Shall Campbells and MacGregors unite before a bombardment of peaches?

There is never a dull moment at agriculture questions. Where else would an innocent query from Bob Croy (Lab, Bradford S) about five surplus food for pensioners elicit from the minister, David Curry, the reply that he did not see why "any noble friend, the Baroness Trumpington, or your friend Robert Maxwell" needed such handouts. Dividing up the entire beef surplus would amount to "74c per pensioner".

Lady Trumpington, a substantial barones with a healthy appetite, wishes unqualified admiration. I hope it is not impudent to remark that 74c of beef is unlikely to make a difference to Lady Trumpington.

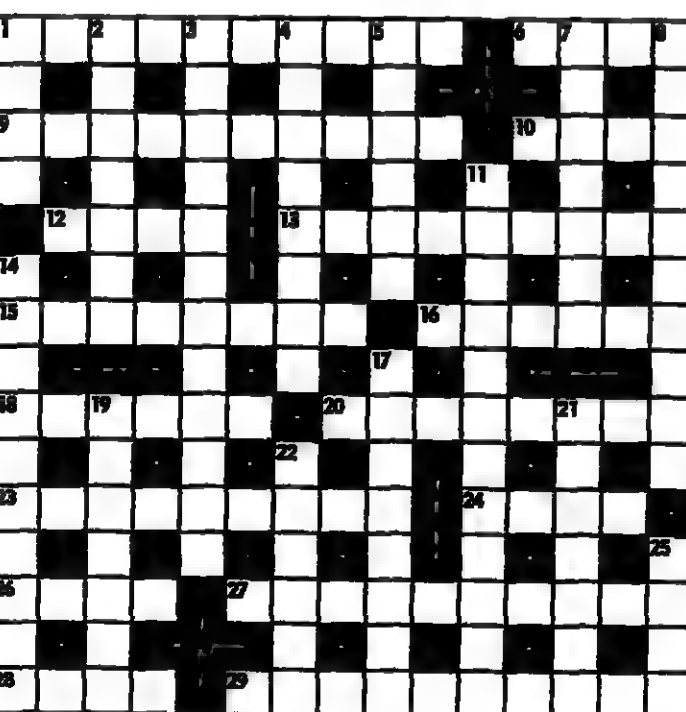
MATTHEW PARKES

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

Frosty the snowman: *That Was The Week That Was* made David Frost a household name on British television almost 30 years ago, and he has rarely been off our screens since. He is almost as famous in America. Yet he has never really been loved by the great British viewing public in the way that Wogan or Parkinson is. In the *Saturday Review*, he contains his restless energy long enough to talk to Andrew Davidson about his career and his critics

Biography lesson: Richard Holmes on the literary inheritance of Boswell's *Life of Samuel Johnson*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,602



ACROSS

- 1 Throw out liquid as ordered — empty frequently (10).
- 6 Staunch branch of the family (4).
- 9 Member of staff in island's new tavern (10).
- 10 Summons jester when king enters (4).
- 12 Row in eight if fit (4).
- 13 Conjecture's appropriate on one point (9).
- 15 Lift a short distance (4-4).
- 16 The shoot spread out (6).
- 18 On way north, find a city in Italy (6).
- 20 Pointers direct one to this centre of attraction (4-4).
- 23 Don't forget about prayer (9).
- 24 Does enough for a farmworker (4).

DOWN

- 26 Reverse vehicle in enclosed area (4).
- 27 Fowl with herb, followed by beef (4-5).
- 28 Small sheep pen (4).
- 29 Game point, a threatening position for an opponent (10).
- 1 Mother Nature's opening blast (4).
- 2 Paper mug that can be used for a time (7).
- 3 Worked without difficulty, having employer on our side (4-5).
- 4 There's nothing morbid in languishing (8).
- 5 Handle a certain amount of drink (6).
- 7 Land king, surrounded by retinue (7).
- 8 High peak to signify with warning device (10).
- 11 American sprinter fourth — on drug? (7-5).
- 14 Chaucerian measure's a holy and merry composition (5-5).
- 17 Healthy around the seaside resort (8).
- 19 It's becoming curious after code's broken (7).
- 21 Don't leave too much hair? Certainly not up on top (7).
- 22 Go and make amends (6).
- 25 Sort of singer not sounding right for heavy metal? (4).

Concise crossword, page 21

WEATHER WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- DRAGONNADE**
a. A female dragon
b. Strong ginger drink
c. Persecution by the military
- SCUTIFORM**
a. A beginners' class
b. Shipshape and Bristol fashion
c. Shield-shaped
- HYPOTYPOSIS**
a. Vivid description
b. Categorisation
c. A well-arranged state
- DEOLE**
a. A wild dog
b. An Indian washerwoman
c. The Afghan shilling

Answers on page 22

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M25 London Orbital only..... 736

NATIONAL

National motorways..... 737
West Country..... 738
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East Angles..... 741
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Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 15C (59F); min 6pm to 6am, 10C (50F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 7.9 hr.

* denotes figures are latest available

Greater London..... 701

Kent, Surrey, Sussex..... 702

Devon & Cornwall..... 703

Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset..... 704

Berkshire, Bucks, Oxon..... 705

Bedfordshire & Essex..... 706

Northampton, Suffolk, Cambs..... 707

West Mid & Sh. Glam & Gwent..... 708

Shropshire, Hereford & Worcs..... 709

Central Midlands..... 710

East Midlands..... 711

Lincoln & Humberside..... 712

Dyfed & Powys..... 713

Gwynedd & Cwyd..... 714

N.W. England..... 715

W & S Yorks & Dales..... 716

N.E. England..... 717

Cumbria & Lake District..... 718

S.W. Scotland..... 719

N.W. Scotland..... 720

Edin S. Fife, Lothian & Borders..... 721

E. Central Scotland..... 722

Grampian & E. Highlands..... 723

N.W. Scotland..... 724

Caithness, Orkney & Shetland..... 725

N. Ireland..... 726

Northwest Scotland will start cloudy with rain arriving during the morning. Northern Ireland and the rest of Scotland starting dry and bright but rain will reach western parts during the afternoon. Northern England and north Wales will remain dry but rather cloudy. Over the rest of England and Wales a dry and fairly sunny day. Outlook: rain spreading southwards but clearer, showery weather following

MIDDAY: (b-easter, d-ester, f-g-day, h-went, i-est, j-est, k-est, l-est, m-est, n-est, o-est, p-est, q-est, r-est, s-est, t-est, u-est, v-est, w-est, x-est, y-est, z-est)

Alcohol 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5, 6.0, 6.5, 7.0, 7.5, 8.0, 8.5, 9.0, 9.5, 10.0, 10.5, 11.0, 11.5, 12.0, 12.5, 13.0, 13.5, 14.0, 14.5, 15.0, 15.5, 16.0, 16.5, 17.0, 17.5, 18.0, 18.5, 19.0, 19.5, 20.0, 20.5, 21.0, 21.5, 22.0, 22.5, 23.0, 23.5, 24.0, 24.5, 25.0, 25.5, 26.0, 26.5, 27.0, 27.5, 28.0, 28.5, 29.0, 29.5, 30.0, 30.5, 31.0, 31.5, 32.0, 32.5, 33.0, 33.5, 34.0, 34.5, 35.0, 35.5, 36.0, 36.5, 37.0, 37.5, 38.0, 38.5, 39.0, 39.5, 40.0, 40.5, 41.0, 41.5, 42.0, 42.5, 43.0, 43.5, 44.0, 44.5, 45.0, 45.5, 46.0, 46.5, 47.0, 47.5, 48.0, 48.5, 49.0, 49.5, 50.0, 50.5, 51.0, 51.5, 52.0, 52.5, 53.0, 53.5, 54.0, 54.5, 55.0, 55.5, 56.0, 56.5, 57.0, 57.5, 58.0, 58.5, 59.0, 59.5, 60.0, 60.5, 61.0, 61.5, 62.0, 62.5, 63.0, 63.5, 64.0, 64.5, 65.0, 65.5, 66.0, 66.5, 67.0, 67.5, 68.0, 68.5, 69.0, 69.5, 70.0, 70.5, 71.0, 71.5, 72.0, 72.5, 73.0, 73.5, 74.0, 74.5, 75.0, 75.5, 76.0, 76.5, 77.0, 77.5, 78.0, 78.5, 79.0, 79.5, 80.0, 80.5, 81.0, 81.5, 82.0, 82.5, 83.0, 83.5, 84.0, 84.5, 85.0, 85.5, 86.0, 86.5, 87.0, 87.5, 88.0, 88.5, 89.0, 89.5, 90.0, 90.5, 91.0, 91.5, 92.0, 92.5, 93.0, 93.5, 94.0, 94.5, 95.0, 95.5, 96.0, 96.5, 97.0, 97.5, 98.0, 98.5, 99.0, 99.5, 100.0, 100.5, 101.0, 101.5, 102.0, 102.5, 103.0, 103.5, 104.0, 104.5, 105.0, 105.5, 106.0, 106.5, 107.0, 107.5, 108.0, 108.5, 109.0, 109.5, 110.0, 110.5, 111.0, 111.5, 112.0, 112.5, 113.0, 113.5, 114.0, 114.5, 115.0, 115.5, 116.0, 116.5, 117.0, 117.5, 118.0, 118.5, 119.0, 119.5, 120.0, 120.5, 121.0, 121.5, 122.0, 122.5, 123.0, 123.5, 124.0, 124.5, 125.0, 125.5, 126.0, 126.5, 127.0, 127.5, 128.0, 128.5, 129.0, 129.5, 130.0, 130.5, 131.0, 131.5, 132.0, 132.5, 133.0, 133.5, 134.0, 134.5, 135.0, 135.5, 136.0, 136.5, 137.0, 137.5, 138.0, 138.5, 139.0, 139.5, 140.0, 140.5, 141.0, 141.5, 142.0, 142.5, 143.0, 143.5, 144.0, 144.5, 145.0, 145.5, 146.0, 146.5, 147.0, 147.5, 148.0, 148.5, 149.0, 149.5, 150.0, 150.5, 151.0, 151.5, 152.0, 152.5, 153.0, 153.5, 154.0, 154.5, 155.0, 155.5, 156.0, 156.5, 157.0, 157.5, 158.0, 158.5, 159.0, 159.5, 160.0, 160.5, 161.0, 161.5, 162.0, 162.5, 163.0, 163.5, 164.0, 164.5, 165.0, 165.5, 166.0, 166.5, 167.0, 167.5, 168.0, 168.5, 169.0, 169.5, 170.0, 170.5, 171.0, 171.5, 172.0, 172.5, 173.0, 173.5, 174.0, 174.5, 175.0, 175.5, 176.0, 176.5, 177.0, 177.5, 178.0, 178.5, 179.0, 179.5, 180.0, 180.5, 181.0, 181.5, 182.0, 182.5, 183.0, 183.5, 184.0, 184.5, 185.0, 185.5, 186.0, 186.5, 187.0, 187.5, 188.0, 188.5, 189.0, 189.5, 190.0, 190.5, 191.0, 191.5, 192.0, 192.5, 193.0, 193.5, 194.0, 194.5, 195.0, 195.5, 196.0, 196.5, 197.0, 197.5, 198.0, 198.5, 199.0, 199.5, 200.0, 200.5, 201.0, 201.5, 202.0, 202.5, 203.0, 203.5, 204.0, 204.5, 205.0, 205.5, 206.0, 206.5, 207.0, 207.5, 208.0, 208.5, 209.0, 209.5, 210.0, 210.5, 211.0, 211.5, 212.0, 212.5, 213.0, 213.5, 214.0, 214.5, 215.0, 215.5, 216.0, 216.5, 217.0, 217.5, 218.0, 218.5, 219.0, 219.5, 220.0, 220.5, 221.0, 221.5, 222.0, 222.5, 223.0, 223.5, 224.0, 224.5, 225.0, 225.5, 226.0, 226.5, 227.0, 227.5, 228.0, 228.5, 229.0, 229.5, 230.0, 230.5, 231.0, 231.5, 232.0, 232.5, 233.0, 233.5, 234.0, 234.5, 235.0, 235.5, 236.0, 236.5, 237.0, 237.5, 238.0, 238.5, 239.0, 239.5, 240.0, 240.5, 241.0, 241.5, 242.0, 242.5, 243.0, 243.5, 244.0, 244.5, 245.0, 245.5, 246.0, 246.5, 247.0, 247.5, 248.0, 248.5, 249.0, 249.5, 250.0, 250.5, 251.0, 251.5, 252.0, 252.5, 253.0, 253.5, 254.0, 254.5, 255.0, 255.5, 256.0, 256.5, 257.0, 257.5, 258.0, 258.5, 259.0, 259.5, 260.0, 260.5, 261.0, 261.5, 262.0, 262.5, 263.0, 263.5, 264.0, 264.5, 265.0, 265.5, 266.0, 266.5, 267.0, 267.5, 268.0, 268.5, 269.0, 269.5, 270.0, 270.5, 271.0, 271.5, 272.0, 272.5, 273.0, 273.5, 274.0, 274.5, 275.0, 275.5, 276.0, 276.5, 277.0, 277.5, 278.0, 278.5, 279.0, 279.5, 280.0, 280.5, 281.0, 281.5, 282.0, 282.5, 283.0, 283.5, 284.0, 284.5, 285.0, 285.5, 286.0, 286.5, 287.0, 287.5, 288.0, 288.5, 289.0, 289.5, 290.0, 290.5, 291.0, 291.5, 292.0, 292.5, 293.0, 293.5, 294.0, 294.5, 295.0, 295.5, 296.0, 296.5, 297.0, 297.5, 298.0, 298.5, 299.0, 299.5, 300.0, 300.5, 301.0, 301.5, 302.0, 302.5, 303.0, 303.5, 304.0, 304.5, 305.0, 305.5, 306.0, 306.5, 307.0, 307.5, 308.0, 308.5, 309.0, 309.5, 310.0, 310.5, 311.0, 311.5, 312.0, 312.5, 313.0, 313.5, 314.0, 314.5, 315.0, 315.5, 316.0, 316.5, 317.0, 317.5, 318.0, 318.5, 319.0, 319.5, 320.0, 320.5, 321.0, 321.5, 322.0, 322.5, 323.0, 323.5, 324.0, 324.5, 325.0, 325.5, 326.0, 326.5, 327.0, 327.5, 328.0, 328.5, 329.0, 329.5, 330.0, 330.5, 331.0, 331.5, 332.0, 332.5, 333.0, 333.5, 334.0, 334.5, 335.0, 335.5,

Chairman takes over Kelt assets

By MARTIN BARROW

THE chairman of Kelt Energy, the heavily borrowed independent oil company, has raised \$170 million through the sale of his private international drilling business to Schlumberger, the engineering combine.

But the Frenchman Hubert Perrodo, who owns 75 per cent of Kelt, has no firm plans to inject fresh capital into his cash-starved quoted company, which missed a \$121 million repayment to a banking syndicate last month.

M Perrodo, who lent \$20 million to Kelt in 1989 after the company's successful bid for Carless, said he would consider putting up new capital for Kelt only if banks, led by American Express, agreed to restructure the company's debts of £208 million, possibly taking equity in lieu of cash.

Kelt has taken a small step towards securing a favourable restructuring package by transferring its international assets, excluding those in America, to another private company controlled by M Perrodo.

Following an agreement with bankers, non-producing assets in France, The Netherlands, Gabon and Nigeria are being transferred to Orkdale NV, incorporated in the Netherlands Antilles. In return, Orkdale will forgo repayments due on loans of \$1.1 million extended to Kelt and assume responsibility for

development costs of \$4.5 million due this year. The transfer leaves Kelt with assets in America and Britain, both offshore and onshore, including a 7.5 per cent interest in Wytch Farm, Dorset, the largest producing oilfield onshore in western Europe.

Attempts by Kelt to dispose of its interest in Wytch Farm, its main asset, failed last year when bids did not match the company's expectations. Several companies are still interested but Kelt believes that it makes better financial sense to retain the asset for cashflow benefits than to accept what it considers a derisory offer. M Perrodo yesterday confirmed that a disposal was no longer an option.

The removal of assets with no short-term prospect of making a positive contribution to Kelt suggests that the company and its bankers are still talking, despite the sudden resignation of Jock Green-Armytage as chief executive in March. Mr Green-Armytage, a respected City financier, complained that banks had reneged on promises to restructure Kelt's debts.

In the six months to last September, the most recent period for which accounts are available, Kelt paid £14.22 million in interest on borrowings. The company made a pre-tax profit of £6.9 million after an unrealised exchange gain of £12.31 million.



Racing ahead: Frank van Wezel, the chairman of HI-Tec Sports, reported yesterday that his company had once again bucked the depressed high street trend, with pre-tax profits up 28 per cent to £8.23 million for the year to February 3. Turnover jumped 43 per cent to £119.8 million, compared with £83.7 million in the previous year. The company holds a 25 per cent share of Britain's sports shoe market and supplies more than six million pairs of shoes a year worldwide.

End urged for 'champions'

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

NATIONAL industrial champions are, as an idea, against both consumers' and the national interest, Sir Christopher Tugendhat, chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, said yesterday.

In what is likely to be one of his final speeches before leaving the CAA in three weeks to take over as chairman of Abbey National, Sir Christopher told an Institute of

Economic Affairs conference in London that CAA policy was to promote the operation of a number of airlines.

He said: "We mean one policy in which Britain does not have to rely on British Airways as a national champion."

Having British airlines compete against each other as well as against foreign carriers meant that air travellers to

and from Britain had a wider choice of carrier than was the case in any other European country. Fares for flights originating in Britain were in general lower than those in other European countries.

He insisted that the recent collapse of Air Europe, following those of B-Cal some years ago and Laker before that, did not invalidate the CAA's multi-airline concept.

Seelig bid to avoid trial fails

ROGER Seelig, the accountant, has failed in a High Court bid to avoid trial in connection with the Guinness affair.

He sought judicial review of two pre-trial rulings last year by Mr Justice Henry, including the decision not to stay the proceedings. But two High Court judges yesterday could find "no flaw" in the rulings.

Lord Justice Russell, sitting with Mr Justice Hodgson, rejected the plea for a judicial review. He said Mr Justice Henry held there had been no prima facie case of misconduct by the inspectors called in to investigate the Guinness bid. The judge had also exercised his discretion in holding that Mr Seelig could still receive a fair trial, despite delays and publicity.

Mr Seelig, 49, faces conspiracy and false accounting charges arising out of the involvement of Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, in the 1986 bid by Guinness for Distillers.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Receivers called in at property developer

ADMINISTRATIVE receivers have been called in at Warringtons, the Northwest property developer, ten days after its shares were suspended. Nigel Hamilton and Scott Martin of Ernst & Young have been appointed receivers to the company, which is best known for its business park development in Chester.

Warringtons' shares were suspended at 174p, two months after it announced it was in refinancing talks. Alfred McAlpine, the construction company, owns a 37 per cent stake in Warringtons, but made provision, estimated at about £20 million, for the investment in its accounts last year.

MMT suffers 38% fall

MMT Computing, the USM computer systems consultant, suffered a 38 per cent decline in pre-tax profits from £1.01 million to £626,000 in the six months to February, as turnover fell from £3.74 million to £3.1 million. Earnings per share slipped from 5.7p to 3.4p, and the interim dividend is maintained at 1p.

Midland and Scottish profit

MIDLAND and Scottish Rescon, the oil production and services company, made an exceptional profit of £9.67 million from the sale of two rigs which enabled it to report its first pre-tax profit since 1983, earning £7.84 million in 1990 (£2.53 million loss) Eps were 5p, against losses of 3p. There is again no dividend.

Smith & Nephew dips

Smith & Nephew, the healthcare and consumer products group, said its first-quarter trading performance was on target and, despite world economic weakness, it performed well. Pre-tax profits were down 8 per cent at £27.2 million in the 12 weeks to March 23. The shares rose 1p to 127½p.

The company, which owns Elastoplast, Nivea, Lillets and Dr White's, said first-quarter underlying sales growth was 10 per cent, excluding adverse exchange rates and a business disposal. Smith & Nephew said sales to hospitals in Britain were constrained by a shortage of cash in the National Health Service. The net cost of borrowings included a £1.2 million charge for supplementary interest on a convertible bond.

Mannesmann buys Tricom

MANNESMANN, of Germany, has bought Tricom Supplies, the plumbing merchant, from Walter Lawrence, the builder, for £6.75 million. Walter Lawrence said Tricom sales in 1990 were £56 million and pre-tax profits £3.9 million. The move was part of management strategy to concentrate on housebuilding.

Yorkshire TV takes stake

YORKSHIRE Television, the ITV company facing two challenges in the Channel 3 licence auction, yesterday acquired a 15 per cent stake in Channelson Television, the Leeds independent producer. Yorkshire has agreed to commission 20 hours of output a year from Channelson, which made the Yorkshire Glory documentary.

API dives into the red

API Group, the packaging and air conditioning maker, formerly Associated Paper Industries, whose managing director resigned in March after a disagreement over strategy, has dived into the red at half-way. The company suffered a pre-tax loss of £249,000 in the six months to end March, against profits of £817,000, which have been restated to exclude discontinued operations. Turnover fell from £31.8 million to £29.5 million. There was a trading loss of £89,000, against a profit of £1.44 million.

API said profitability is expected to be improved in a full year by at least £1.2 million. There is a 2.7p loss per share (2.5p earnings). The interim dividend is held at 2.75p.



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Emap pays £10.7m for Radio City

By PHILIP FANGALOS

Emap, the magazine and newspaper publisher, hopes to take a more active role in radio broadcasting after making a £10.7 million recommended offer for Radio City (Sound of Merseyside), the Liverpool radio station.

Emap, whose titles include *Smash Hits* and *Just Seventeen*, already has a foothold in the radio sector, with interests including a 28 per cent stake in London's Kiss FM, a 16 per cent stake in Trans World Communications, which runs Piccadilly Radio in Manchester, and holdings in three East Anglia stations.

Emap is offering 460p cash for Radio City voting shares and 385p for non-voting A shares. There is an alternative paper offer involving 206 new Emap shares for 100 Radio City voting shares and 345 new Emap shares for 200 Radio City A shares, worth 476p and 398.5p.

Directors and other shareholders accounting for 60.5 per cent of voting shares and

15 per cent of non-voting shares have agreed to the offer. Radio City shares, which are quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, rose with a 92p jump to 377p, while Emap eased 2p to 229p.

Robin Miller, Emap's chief executive, said his company had been building a portfolio of radio investments. "Radio City will form the cornerstone of our strategy to expand further into radio as it expands and grows."

The cash part of the offer would be funded from the group's existing resources. The paper offer, if fully accepted, would mean the issue of 4.62 million Emap shares, accounting for 3.3 per cent of the enlarged capital.

Radio City's pre-tax profits fell to £882,000 (£1.34 million) in the year to end September 1990, on turnover of £4.15 million (£4.33 million). Emap made pre-tax profits of £38 million in the year to end March 1990, on turnover of £264.3 million.

Kunick seeks £17.6m

By MATTHEW BOND

KUNICK, the amusement machine and nursing home group, said it is raising £17.6 million through a two-for-one rights issue as it announced interim pre-tax profits to end March falling 9 per cent to £7.3 million. Net interest payable rose to £1.6 million (£176,000).

The company is raising money through a rights issue, rather than depend on increased activity in the housing market, to reduce borrowings. Russell Smith, the chairman, said that it would be inappropriate to rely on the performance of the housing sector to achieve the reduced levels of gearing necessary to take advantage of available opportunities for continued growth.

After the rights issue, gearing drops from 70 per cent to 36 per cent. New shares are priced at 33p. Kunick's existing shares fell 14p to 41½p. Having announced an interim dividend of 0.8p (0.6p), Kunick expects to recommend a final dividend of 1.2p.

Banks say City hurt by swaps

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE British Bankers Association (BBA) has given warning of the massive damage done to the reputation of the City of London, and the Bank of England as a regulator, by the government's decision not to intervene in the local authority swaps affair.

About 80 banks stand to lose up to £50 million as a result of a House of Lords judgment that swap contracts entered into by local authorities were illegal. The banks could recover up to £125 million by pursuing restitution through the courts and 71 writs have already been issued by 12 banks.

Lars Evander, the BBA representative of foreign banks operating in the UK, said that the Bank of England could face difficulty in effectively regulating British financial markets in future. Mr Evander said that some foreign banks no longer considered the City "a fit and proper place" to carry out financial services business.

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صندوق البريد

Slow march to a single market

COMMENT

After years of wrangling, European finance ministers are finally expected to take a decision next month on harmonising markets for securities and financial services. Hopes of serious progress are not great.

Yesterday, Andrew Hugh Smith, chairman of London's International Stock Exchange, criticised Europe's failure to make decisive progress on the financial services directive, which has already been watered down beyond recognition.

The most important aspect of the directive is the so-called single passport for securities dealings, which would allow investors to trade anywhere they choose. This is now not likely to happen soon.

Mr Hugh Smith complains rightly that Europe is moving too slowly towards harmonisation. Naturally, he speaks from a point of view of vested interest, since London's financial markets would be the ultimate beneficiaries of the single passport.

He is also right to point out that liberalisation and harmonisation of rules are not a zero-

sum game, where London's gains will equal the losses of Milan, Madrid and others. Worse, perhaps, failure to achieve a meaningful single market is in fact a negative-sum game, where foreign investors simply choose to ignore Europe's fragmented markets.

One problem is that many continental politicians treat national or even regional stock exchanges as sacred cows. While the stock exchanges of Bremen and Düsseldorf are indeed quaint, they are of little relevance in this day of 24-hour trading. But too much debate has also been wasted on the question of whether London's position can be challenged by Paris or Frankfurt. They are essentially national markets, unlike London, whose share in cross-border transactions within the Community is already 90 per cent. If cross-border transactions were the rule, rather than the exception, a challenge by

Frankfurt or Paris would look even less likely.

The real issue is whether Europe, led by London or whichever other financial centre, will be a meaningful competitor on a world stage, or whether this industry will follow others, such as consumer electronics, computers and cars, out of Europe and into Southeast Asia.

BP escapes

Hunt the profit was the sceptic's game yesterday as BP managed to avoid showing a widely anticipated first-quarterly historic-cost loss, despite losing heavily on its 17 million tonnes of stocks when the rise in oil prices triggered by the Gulf crisis was reversed. As David Simon, BP's chief

operating officer, quickly pointed out, however, "Unless you are an accountant, it is hard to discern major trends from historic-cost figures."

The short-term replacement-cost accounts may not be much more useful. A fall in oil prices tends to flatter margins in chemicals, where operating profits jumped from £7 million in the last quarter of 1990 to £54 million, and in refining and marketing, where profits multiplied from £115 million to £385 million. Oil production profits were down on the last quarter of 1990 but up on the 1990 first quarter thanks to higher Alaskan output.

As the oil price has stabilised, refining margins have started to slip back. Even so, some analysts are upgrading their profit estimates for the year. Nicholas

Clayton of Smith New Court now expects historic-cost profits of about £1 billion, against £1.68 billion last time, and replacement-cost profits marginally higher at £1.23 billion. As he points out, however, good refining profits matter more to Shell than to BP.

Longer term, BP still aims to cut the 60 per cent gearing built up as a result of the botched government share sale of 1987. Perhaps it should not try too hard since this might undermine any new attempt to resolve the problem of unrelieved advance corporation tax on dividends.

Wrong place

Few people would contest the desirability of reducing the output of sulphur dioxide from Britain's power stations.

Yet the government's decision to oblige Scottish Power to spend

up to £400 million cleaning the emissions of Longannet power station, whilst far dirtier power stations in England continue to pollute, is bizarre. The thrust of the government's strategy for the power industry has been to improve efficiency and, simultaneously, to make it bear the environmental cost of its activity.

Yet the benefit, to the environment, of a pound spent reducing emissions in Scotland is only half that of a similar sum spent at a similar plant in England. If logic is to prevail, as it should, then the government must think again about the obligations it has imposed upon National Power and PowerGen.

As things stand, they have only to fit desulphurisation equipment to three power stations, and substitute cleaner gas plants in order to meet the nationwide target of a 60 per cent reduction.

Rather than impose £400 million of costs on Scottish investors and consumers, the government might be better advised to spend the money where it will do most good.

Tootal attacks before Coats has UK textiles all sewn up

Two years ago Coats Viyella and Tootal were about to merge. Now they are locked in a bitter takeover battle

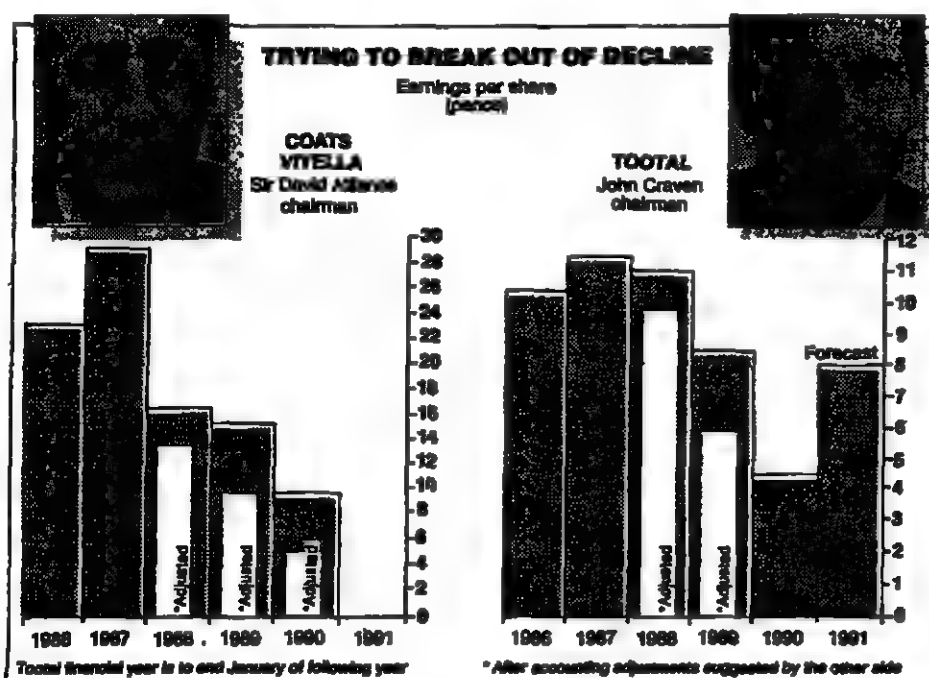
IS SIR David Alliance the saviour or the scourge of Britain's textile industry? This is the question the board of Tootal, fighting a £252 million bid from Sir David's Coats Viyella, has asked its shareholders to address before committing their shares next week.

Tootal's attack on Coats' record this week, which placed a substantial chunk of the blame for the decline of the British textile industry on the shoulders of Sir David and his team, may have owed something to an anxiety that the betting on the outcome of the bid has swung back towards its protagonists, but it raises an issue that troubles even some Coats supporters.

Followers of Sir David's rampage through Britain's mill towns during the Seventies and Eighties, weaving a string of sizzling businesses into his growing patchwork of textile companies, have formed the opinion that his undisputed deal-making skills are not quite matched by his capabilities when it comes to running the business.

The trading record of Coats since the last merger that brought together Sir David's Vantona Viyella and Coats Patons in 1986, shows earnings per share down from 29p to 9.6p, and the latest document from Tootal points out that between the Coats Patons and Tootal bids, Coats' market value has sunk by £600 million.

But textile manufacturers seem to live in glass houses these days and Tootal's trading performance is measured by earnings per share that have slithered from 10.3p in the year to January 1987, to 4.2p last time. Both Coats and Tootal have delivered their



stones wrapped in their estimates of the other's profitability, which are, not unexpectedly, lower than the figures stated, as the chart shows.

The questioning of accounting treatments has been a feature of the bid campaign, which perhaps should not have come as too much of a surprise, given that both companies operate in upwards of 40 countries, many Third

World. Coats make any secret of their heavy dependence on the exchange rate. It was the strength of the pound in the late Eighties that undermined the recovery of the industry that Sir David had worked hard for — and which, it should also be remembered, thousands of others had lost their jobs for.

Sterling's earlier weakness against the dollar enabled an

industry. Two years ago both Coats and Tootal thought so, and may well have been operating as a single entity by now had not a three-month Monopolies Commission enquiry in the summer of 1989 given both sides time to rework their calculations in what were deteriorating trading conditions, and ultimately find reasons for falling out.

Although the departure of Geoffrey Maddrell and Alan Webb early this year elevated fresh faces to the key boardroom positions at Tootal, the company's earlier commitment to the industrial logic of the deal has not been easy to disavow. Neutrals believe that Tootal's belated rationalisation programme has done little to alter the case based on the benefits of knitting Tootal's sourcing strengths in the Far East with Coats' clear advantage in Europe and South America.

Now that the offer terms have been adjusted, to raise the price and introduce a paper alternative, Sir David looks increasingly like being given the chance to sew another lining inside this fading sector, in an attempt to produce a more durable, better-wearing British textile industry.

MICHAEL TATE
City Editor

Tootal's earlier commitment to the deal has not been easy to disavow

World hyper-inflationary economies. Nothing, other than marginal, political point-scoring appears to have been achieved by it, although the experience of Polly Peck International has taught shareholders to look carefully at profits earned in unstable currencies.

Likewise the morsels tossed to the Office of Fair Trading in a vain attempt to reopen the monopolies question, this is little more than a smoke-screen and delaying tactic engineered by a Tootal board for whom every day counted as its rationalisation measures began to bite and the dollar reasserted itself on the foreign exchanges. Neither Tootal nor

industry that for many years had been caught between the more efficient producers of Germany and Italy and the low-cost suppliers in the Far East, at least to be able to compete more effectively against the dollar-accounting Asian businesses.

For all the £3 billion or so pumped into new equipment by British textile companies during the Eighties, much by Coats Viyella, the industry remains uncompetitive against continental rivals.

Many observers then, believe a merger between the world's two largest sewing thread companies is the most hopeful survival plan for the

Sears' seers hint at fears

TEMPUS

WHAT should Sears shareholders make of the dividend health warning contained in the preliminary results for the year ended January? On the one hand, chairman Geoffrey Maitland Smith says the board is "not too worried about dividend cover," while on the other, analysts are told there could be "no underlying guarantee" that the dividend would be maintained.

If all the exceptionalists were stripped out of the latest results, they would not only look very different but the 1990-1 dividend total, maintained at 5.35p, would not have been fully funded by earnings; and on present evidence, neither will the next one.

A 'clean' pre-tax profit of £86.1 million, comparing with a like-for-like £169.2 million last time, would have produced eps of barely 4p, given the exclusion of roll-over tax relief related to the property interests.

Sears' year was every bit as bleak as expected. Menswear sank into loss, from which,

under its new management, it is not destined to return until 1992, and footwear, short of 20 per cent of space and 2,000 staff, is still held back by the underperforming Freeman Hardy & Willis chain, not to speak of the desperate high street conditions.

Sears attempts to take encouragement from the progress made by the womenswear, sportswear and mail order operations but, in the final analysis, a 5 per cent increase in turnover, at £2.16 billion, was swamped by a 10 per cent surge in costs.

With no sign of market revival, the group will rely on further disposals from its £150 million investment property bank to sustain a positive cash flow this year, and restrain gearing, which remains at 15.3 per cent. In the expected absence of rationalisation costs this time, the pre-tax figure may improve to over £110

million, to realise 'clean' earnings of just over 5p, assuming a 33 per cent tax charge. That suggests a multiple of around 18 at the current 90p, a rating the immediate prospects just do not justify.

BBA

DR John White could have picked a better day to unveil a £79 million cash call. With a number of Britain's leading industrial companies choosing yesterday to tell shareholders that recovery was still some way off, it would have been difficult for Dr White to argue otherwise.

Prudently, he did not attempt to. The justification for this issue, he says, lies in BBA's past, not its future. The one-for-four issue at 112p is designed to repair the damage done to BBA's balance sheet over the past last years by a stream of small acquisitions. A 12p drop in the share

price to 127p, below the theoretical ex-rights price, suggests the market was less than won over.

BBA's acquisitions have succeeded in reducing its dependence on the automotive industry, from 80 per cent in 1987 to just 36 per cent last year. But the impact of recession must be widening. So far this year a further 500 staff have been laid off, in addition to the 1,300 laid off last year, and there are doubts about Dr White's apparent confidence in how most non-automotive businesses are weathering the storm.

The rights issue reduces balance sheet gearing from 61 per cent to 29 per cent, well within the 40 per cent level at which the company says it is comfortable. At 127p, and assuming current year profits of around £60 million, the shares are on a price-earnings multiple of about 11, with the downside apparently limited by a gross yield approaching 9 per cent.

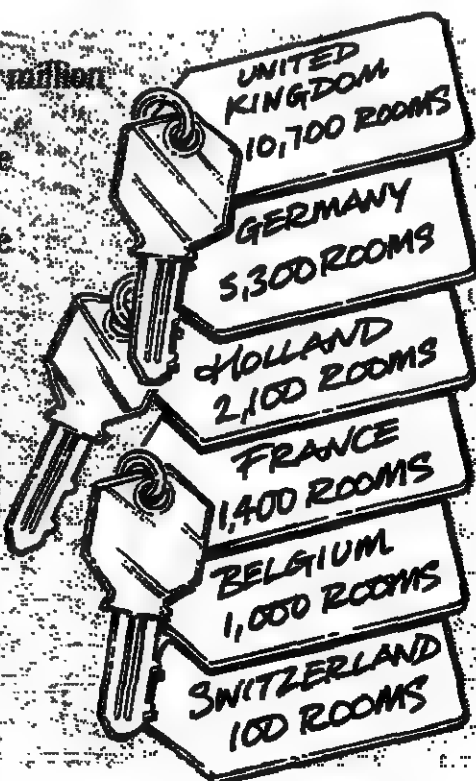
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Shareholders can reasonably expect modest progress in 1991 and further improvements in 1992. As the UK economy recovers — prospects for profitable expansion on the Continent are most encouraging



This information has been extracted from the Report & Accounts and the Preliminary Profit Statement. Copies are available from the Company Secretary.

Queens Moat Houses PLC,
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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Truth suits Sir Owen

ALAN Jackson, chief executive of BTR, the industrial conglomerate, since January, appeared to be holding his breath at the group's annual meeting in Westminster yesterday. For on his left was Sir Owen Green, the chairman, who had suffered an unfortunate experience earlier that day. Asked by a shareholder whether he considered himself "miserly", Sir Owen recounted a story about his suit. Discovering a stain on the material, he had sprayed on some fluid from a canister and left it to soak in for 15 minutes. He later discovered he had sprayed on fly-killer by mistake. "I didn't go out and order another," he says. "As a company we are economical, but not with the truth."

Princely sum
THE latest developments at Kelt Energy have done little to dent the lifestyle of Hubert

Perrodo, the chairman and major shareholder. Three weeks ago, he sold his private oil-drilling interests in France for a tidy \$170 million. The buyer was Schlumberger, the conglomerate that gave him his first job as a driller. "I sold it to my former chairman," says Perrodo, aged 47, who commutes between Paris and London and plays polo with the Prince of Wales.

SIGN in a Relate office in



Glasgow: "Love may still be blind but marriage is the perfect eye-opener."

Cuts continue

SLOWLY but surely, job cuts continue. The ten market-makers quietly let go by Swiss Bank Corporation on Friday included John Westbrook, "the Prof" to his friends in the Square Mile. The firm has decided to make markets only in Swiss, German and some British stocks. Meanwhile, Citicorp has cut ten research and sales staff in Hong Kong, but has no plans to close the operation. The bank shut its British private client stock-broking arm in November.

Family politics

KEITH Ashworth-Lord, head of research at Henry Cooke Lumsden, was only too pleased to be back at his desk this week. For he has just returned from a hectic week campaigning on behalf of Rita Sarginson, his mother-in-law, in the local elections. "I knew that if I didn't get her back in I

wouldn't get her off my doorstep for the next four years," says Ashworth-Lord, who stepped down from Rochdale council last year. "For a while we had two brother-and-sister teams, two husband-and-wife teams, and a mother and son-in-law, all on the same council."

Cusack quits

MARK Cusack, high-flying director of corporate finance at House Govett, has resigned after eight years with the firm. Cusack, aged 33, joined the firm from Arthur Andersen, the accountant, and was promoted to corporate finance last year. "It was all very amicable," says Cusack, who is sounding out contacts in the City and in industry before making his next move. He will be remembered at House Govett for his stylish white convertible Porsche and his love of Hugo Boss suits.

JON ASHWORTH

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The Economist

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39	Ram	Drugs/Stores	
40	Hayworth	Industrials E-K	
41	Shell	Oil/Gas	
42	Dr. Land	Property	
43	Newman Toms	Building/Roads	
44	Royal Elec.	Electricals	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

BRITISH FUNDS

Short	Long	Bank	Price	Change	Vol
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SHORTS (Under Five Years)	Long	Bank	Price	Change	Vol
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

SHORTS (Five to Ten Years)	Long	Bank	Price	Change	Vol
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

SHORTS (Ten to Fifteen Years)	Long	Bank	Price	Change	Vol
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

SHORTS (Over Fifteen Years)	Long	Bank	Price	Change	Vol
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

UNDATED	Long	Bank	Price	Change	Vol
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

INDEX-LINKED	Long	Bank	Price	Change	Vol
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares end at best levels

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 29. Dealings end May 17. Contango day May 20. Settlement day May 28.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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BREWERIES

1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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1991	Low	Company	High	Bank	Price	Change	Vol	HP
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[illegible]

UNLISTED SECURITIES

[illegible]

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange Index compared with 1985 was down at 91.5 (day's range 91.4-91.7).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Rate Basis for May 9	Range	Close	1 month	3 months
New York	1.7910-1.7120	1.7900-1.7070	0.87-0.88	2.27-2.29
London	1.0000-1.0000	1.0000-1.0000	0.49-0.49	0.60-0.61
Amsterdam	3.2442-3.2524	3.2463-3.2500	15-16p	15-16p
Brussels	10.00-01.51	10.00-01.51	17-20p	17-20p
Frankfurt	11.3448-11.3650	11.3448-11.3650	5-16p	41-35p
Dublin	1.1117-1.1127	1.1117-1.1127	19-20p	61-30p
Paris	2.9700-2.9700	2.9700-2.9700	5-16p	16-14p
Madrid	16.350-16.350	16.350-16.350	19-20p	19-20p
Stockholm	10.048-10.048	10.048-10.048	17-20p	65-65p
Oslo	19.08-22.0034	19.08-22.0034	8-12p	20p-20p
Geneva	11.500-11.500	11.500-11.500	8-12p	19-20p
Paris	10.048-10.048	10.048-10.048	25-26p	25-26p
Stockholm	10.048-10.048	10.048-10.048	19-20p	19-20p
Oslo	20.00-20.00	20.00-20.00	19-20p	19-20p
Zurich	2.6004-2.6104	2.6104-2.6104	17-16p	17-16p

Premiums in p. Discount in c.

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 12 Finance House 12%
Discount Market Lender Overnight 12% Low 12
Treasury Bill (6 months) 11 1/4 to 11 1/2; 3 months 11 1/4 to 11 1/2; 6 months 10 1/4 to 10 1/2

Prime Bank Bill (6 months)	1 1/4 to 1 1/2	2 1/4 to 2 1/2	3 1/4 to 3 1/2	4 1/4 to 4 1/2	5 1/4 to 5 1/2
Trade Bill (6 months)	11 1/4 to 11 1/2	11 1/4 to 11 1/2	11 1/4 to 11 1/2	11 1/4 to 11 1/2	11 1/4 to 11 1/2
Interbank:	12 1/4 to 12 1/2	11 1/4 to 11 1/2	11 1/4 to 11 1/2	11 1/4 to 11 1/2	11 1/4 to 11 1/2
Government 10 1/2 to 10 3/4	11 1/4 to 11 1/2	11 1/4 to 11 1/2	11 1/4 to 11 1/2	11 1/4 to 11 1/2	11 1/4 to 11 1/2
Local Authority Debt:	12 1/4 to 12 1/2	11 1/4 to 11 1/2	11 1/4 to 11 1/2	11 1/4 to 11 1/2	11 1/4 to 11 1/2
Banking:	12 1/4 to 12 1/2	11 1/4 to 11 1/2	11 1/4 to 11 1/2	11 1/4 to 11 1/2	11 1/4 to 11 1/2
Building Society Debt:	12 1/4 to 12 1/2	11 1/4 to 11 1/2	11 1/4 to 11 1/2	11 1/4 to 11 1/2	11 1/4 to 11 1/2

EUROPEAN MONEY OPPORTUNITIES (%)

Currency	7 day	1 month	3 months	6 months	Call
Dollar:	0-1-0-1	0-1-0-1	0-1-0-1	0-1-0-1	0-1-0-1
Swiss Franc:	0-1-0-1	0-1-0-1	0-1-0-1	0-1-0-1	0-1-0-1
French Franc:	0-1-0-1	0-1-0-1	0-1-0-1	0-1-0-1	0-1-0-1
Italian Lira:	0-1-0-1	0-1-0-1	0-1-0-1	0-1-0-1	0-1-0-1
Yen:	0-1-0-1	0-1-0-1	0-1-0-1	0-1-0-1	0-1-0-1

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS

Gold: Open 357.10-357.50 Close 358.90-357.50 High 357.25-357.75
Lower 356.00-357.00
Silver: Open 54.75-55.75 Close 54.50-54.50 High 54.50-54.50
Lower 54.50-54.50
Platinum: Open 950.00-950.00 Close 950.00-950.00 High 950.00-950.00
Lower 950.00-950.00

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral	16701.8-16723.7
Australia dollar	2.7700-2.7741
Belgian franc	0.053-0.056
British pound	0.652-0.651
Cypriot pound	0.602-0.611
Dutch guilder	0.202-0.203
French franc	0.053-0.056
German drachm	32.05-32.05
Hong Kong dollar	10.250-10.250
Indian rupee	94.85-95.25
Israeli sheqel	1.490-1.490
Japanese yen	4.000-4.000
Malaysian ringgit	0.600-0.600
New Zealand dollar	0.600-0.600
South African rand	0.600-0.600
Swedish krona	0.600-0.600
Swiss franc	0.600-0.600
Taiwan dollar	0.600-0.600
Thai baht	0.600-0.600
US dollar	0.600-0.600
Yugoslav dinar	0.600-0.600

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Belgium	1.7220-1.7220
Canada	1.7220-1.7220
France	0.053-0.056
Germany	0.202-0.203
Italy	0.053-0.056
Japan	0.053-0.056
Netherlands	0.202-0.203

SCG: Fixed Rate Starting Spot Finance. Make-up day: Apr 30, 1991 Agreed rates
May 20, 1991 to Jun 25, 1991 Scheme A 13.07%, Scheme B A & B 13.25%. Reference
rate 20, 1991 to Apr 30, 1991 Scheme A & B 12.05%.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

FT-SE 100	Index	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
Open	2591.0	2591.0	2591.0	2591.0	2591.0	2591.0
Close	2591.0	2591.0	2591.0	2591.0	2591.0	2591.0
Three Month Sterling	Jun 91	98.00	98.00	98.00	98.00	1918
Three Month Eurodollar	Jun 91	98.00	98.00	98.00	98.00	1731
Three Month Euro DM	Jun 91	98.00	98.00	98.00	98.00	384
Three Month Euro Yen	Jun 91	98.00	98.00	98.00	98.00	384
Three Month Euro JPY	Jun 91	98.00	98.00	98.00	98.00	384
Three Month Euro SFR	Jun 91	98.00	98.00	98.00	98.00	384
Three Month Euro Lira	Jun 91	98.00	98.00	98.00	98.00	384
Three Month Euro Yen	Jun 91	98.00	98.00	98.00	98.00	384
Three Month Euro JPY	Jun 91	98.00	98.00	98.00	98.00	384
Three Month Euro SFR	Jun 91	98.00	98.00	98.00	98.00	384
Three Month Euro Lira	Jun 91	98.00	98.00	98.00	98.00	384

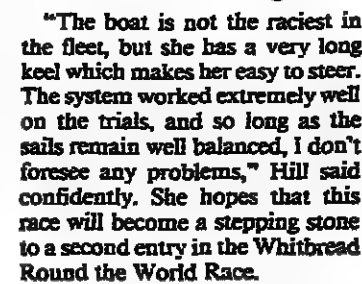
BENT TRUSTS

Trust Name	Value	Change	Value	Change	Value	Change
113	113	113	113	113	113	113
114	114	114	114	114	114	114
115	115	115	115	115	115	115
116	116	116	116	116	116	116
117	117	117	117	117	117	117
118	118	118	118	118	118	118
119	119	119	119	119	119	119
120	120	120	120	120	120	120
121	121	121	121	121	121	121
122	122	122	122	122	122	122
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124	124	124	124	124	124	124
125	125	125	125	125	125	125
126	126	126	126	126	126	126
127	127	127	127	127	127	127
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226	226	226	226	226	226	226
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Single-minded Hill relishes single-handed challenge

Sleep, or rather the lack of it, is the harshest test for a single-hander, especially during the



Starting from London on September 1, the course will take the crew to Cape Town via most of the eastern Atlantic islands, then to Hobart for Christmas, returning via Cape Horn and New York on August 31, 1992. Each 7,000-mile stage costs around £4,000, and Allen's phone (071 413 3212) is already hot.

SAILING BOATS:
WESTERLY OCEANGRASS
 48. New and unbranded,
 many extras. Current Westerly
 price \$226,000 (ex VAT). Best
 offer over \$126,000 (ex VAT)
 secured. Must call phone David
 on 0325 236920.

GOODY 37. Lux Sailing Cruiser.
 Superb, Superb condition.
 I also have a 37' 1988

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THE TIMES FRIDAY MAY 10 1991

Regal Sabre to pick up winning thread

Regal Sabre, arguably outstayed in his last two races, can regain winning ways over a shorter trip in the Taxinees Stakes at Lingfield today.

Rated his best three-year-old colt by Richard Hannon, the son of Sharpen Up was, perhaps, optimistically entered for the Derby. However, on the evidence of his recent runs at Newmarket and Ascot, he will prove more effective over distances such as today's seven furlongs.

Installed joint-favourite for the Feilden Stakes over nine furlongs at Newmarket last month, Regal Sabre looked the likely winner when quickening to lead inside the final furlong but was just run out by home favourite Half A Tick, who did not let the form down when second at Chester yesterday.

Given the chance to go one better in the ten-furlong White Rose Stakes at Ascot nine days ago, Regal Sabre proved no match for Perpetual, who galloped on relentlessly in the soft ground to beat the East

Everleigh colt by seven lengths.

While neither of those races proved conclusively that Regal Sabre failed through lack of stamina, his wily trainer has wasted no time bringing him back to test his fitness with races such as the Jersey Stakes on the not too distant horizon.

My other principal fancy at the Surrey course is Mystic Crystal, who made an eye-catching reappearance at Newmarket last week when chasing home Dominick in a competitive handicap.

The Careless filly is preferred to the treble-stealing Colins Avenue and Fly Away Soon, so disappointing behind Peking Opera at Kempton last month, after gaining a 12-length maiden success on the same course.

Jack Berry continues his nationwide quest for winners by sending Memabab on the long trek south for the R.R. Richardson Maiden Stakes.

Now with the astute Francis Lee, Memabab is sure to be placed to advantage again this season and, following last season's Thurst pipe-opener, he should now be ready to recapture his good form of 1990.

The booking of Willie Carson for this Ripon third is interesting but I have such good reports of Wave Hill, Henry Cecil's first two-year-old runner of the season, that the Sizzling Melody colt must be my selection.

Berry may fare better at the two northern Flat meetings with Down The Middle (3.45), Heather Bank (4.15) and Zepkei (5.45) all fancied at Carlisle, and Palacegate Gold taken to make a winning debut at Beverley (2.15).

Also at Beverley, Terminus is tipped to defy top weight in the Ribby Handicap. A good servant to Bill Elsey last season, when he won three races, Terminus finished the campaign with placed efforts in top-notch handicaps at Newmarket and Doncaster.

Now with the astute Francis Lee, Terminus is sure to be placed to advantage again this season and, following last season's Thurst pipe-opener, he should now be ready to recapture his good form of 1990.

Now with the astute Francis Lee, Terminus is sure to be placed to advantage again this season and, following last season's Thurst pipe-opener, he should now be ready to recapture his good form of 1990.

MANDARIN

3.45 Down The Middle, 4.15 Heather Bank, 4.45 Fizz Time, 5.15 Our Ailing, 5.45 Zepkei, 6.15 Sarsta Gail.

THUNDERER

3.45 Jean's Valentine, 4.15 Heather Bank, 4.45 Fizz Time, 5.15 Moving Out, 5.45 Screamer, 6.15 American Hero.

Michael Seely: 4.45 FIZZ TIME (nap). Times Private Handicapper's top ratings: 4.45 FIZZ TIME.

GOING: FIRM
DRAW: 8F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

3.45 IRISHING SELLING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (11 runners)

1 30-4 DOWN THE MIDDLE (2) (J. Barry) 8-4 K. Darby 9
2 14-0 PETROPOV (2) (J. Barry) 8-4 K. Darby 9
3 14-0 JENNY VALENTINE (2) (J. Barry) 8-4 K. Darby 9
4 14-0 JENNY VALENTINE (2) (J. Barry) 8-4 K. Darby 9
5 14-0 JENNY VALENTINE (2) (J. Barry) 8-4 K. Darby 9
6 14-0 JENNY VALENTINE (2) (J. Barry) 8-4 K. Darby 9
7 14-0 JENNY VALENTINE (2) (J. Barry) 8-4 K. Darby 9
8 14-0 JENNY VALENTINE (2) (J. Barry) 8-4 K. Darby 9
9 14-0 JENNY VALENTINE (2) (J. Barry) 8-4 K. Darby 9
10 14-0 JENNY VALENTINE (2) (J. Barry) 8-4 K. Darby 9
11 14-0 JENNY VALENTINE (2) (J. Barry) 8-4 K. Darby 9

4.15 CALDWELL MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (12 runners)

1 30-4 ALBERTO D'OR (4) (J. Barry) 8-4 K. Darby 9
2 14-0 CUMBERLAND CHALLENGE (2) (J. Barry) 8-4 K. Darby 9
3 14-0 CUMBERLAND CHALLENGE (2) (J. Barry) 8-4 K. Darby 9
4 14-0 CUMBERLAND CHALLENGE (2) (J. Barry) 8-4 K. Darby 9
5 14-0 CUMBERLAND CHALLENGE (2) (J. Barry) 8-4 K. Darby 9
6 14-0 CUMBERLAND CHALLENGE (2) (J. Barry) 8-4 K. Darby 9
7 14-0 CUMBERLAND CHALLENGE (2) (J. Barry) 8-4 K. Darby 9
8 14-0 CUMBERLAND CHALLENGE (2) (J. Barry) 8-4 K. Darby 9
9 14-0 CUMBERLAND CHALLENGE (2) (J. Barry) 8-4 K. Darby 9
10 14-0 CUMBERLAND CHALLENGE (2) (J. Barry) 8-4 K. Darby 9
11 14-0 CUMBERLAND CHALLENGE (2) (J. Barry) 8-4 K. Darby 9
12 14-0 CUMBERLAND CHALLENGE (2) (J. Barry) 8-4 K. Darby 9

4.45 GLEN HANCOCK (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (7 runners)

1 30-4 GLEN HANCOCK (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (7 runners)
2 14-0 GLEN HANCOCK (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (7 runners)
3 14-0 GLEN HANCOCK (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (7 runners)
4 14-0 GLEN HANCOCK (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (7 runners)
5 14-0 GLEN HANCOCK (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (7 runners)
6 14-0 GLEN HANCOCK (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (7 runners)
7 14-0 GLEN HANCOCK (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (7 runners)

5.15 EDEN HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (11 runners)

1 30-4 EDEN HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (11 runners)
2 14-0 EDEN HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (11 runners)
3 14-0 EDEN HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (11 runners)
4 14-0 EDEN HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (11 runners)
5 14-0 EDEN HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (11 runners)
6 14-0 EDEN HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (11 runners)
7 14-0 EDEN HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (11 runners)
8 14-0 EDEN HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (11 runners)
9 14-0 EDEN HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (11 runners)
10 14-0 EDEN HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (11 runners)
11 14-0 EDEN HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (11 runners)

5.45 DERWENT CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (9 runners)

1 30-4 DERWENT CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (9 runners)
2 14-0 DERWENT CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (9 runners)
3 14-0 DERWENT CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (9 runners)
4 14-0 DERWENT CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (9 runners)
5 14-0 DERWENT CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (9 runners)
6 14-0 DERWENT CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (9 runners)
7 14-0 DERWENT CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (9 runners)
8 14-0 DERWENT CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (9 runners)
9 14-0 DERWENT CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (9 runners)

6.15 EAMONT HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (14 runners)

1 30-4 EAMONT HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (14 runners)
2 14-0 EAMONT HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (14 runners)
3 14-0 EAMONT HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (14 runners)
4 14-0 EAMONT HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (14 runners)
5 14-0 EAMONT HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (14 runners)
6 14-0 EAMONT HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (14 runners)
7 14-0 EAMONT HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (14 runners)
8 14-0 EAMONT HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (14 runners)
9 14-0 EAMONT HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (14 runners)
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12 14-0 EAMONT HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (14 runners)
13 14-0 EAMONT HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (14 runners)
14 14-0 EAMONT HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,800: 1m) (14 runners)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANSFERS: Jenny FitzGerald, 5 winners from 24 runners, 17.5% (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 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Soulful Senna still striving for inner strength

Ayrton Senna, the Formula One world champion, seems bound for a fourth consecutive victory here this weekend. He leads the championship with 30 points and his nearest rival is his McLaren team-mate, Gerhard Berger, of Austria, 20 points behind.

The other drivers trail in his slipstream. Alain Prost is struggling with the management of his team, Ferrari; Nigel Mansell is unable to finish a race. Senna seems invincible and he makes it look so easy.

He has established a race routine. On Friday, he sets the fastest lap in qualifying, securing provisional pole position. Overnight, all his rivals work frantically to nullify his advantage. On Saturday, he drives two fast laps, the first good but not so good the others feel he is out of reach. One or two even manage to better his time.

Then he drives out of the pits, four or five minutes away from the end of the session. The crowd stills, the press room goes quiet and the other cars seem to melt away. A minute or so later, he has done it again. Fastest lap, pole for race day, all the others left behind.

"The difference between winning and losing is very small," Senna says. He indicates a space between his index and thumb. "And it's getting smaller all the time. To achieve victory you have to be totally committed; you must give your best, even if your health suffers."

That he gives his all, there is no doubt. At the end of the Brazilian race, which he won, he was in such pain from cramp he was unable to get out of the

In the build-up to the Monaco grand prix on Sunday, Norman Howell unravels the secret of Ayrton Senna's success

Yet despite his victories, he is less than satisfied with the team effort provided by McLaren and Honda. "I am surprised we've won so far. The Honda V12 is reliable and strong but I was promised more from this engine. The point is that, had I not felt particularly strong at Phoenix and São Paulo, we might have been second or third. And that is unacceptable."

"I had to give more of myself than I should have," he said. "It means more pain, more frustration, a different level of commitment, and that is not healthy for me. I don't like to put myself in this situation."

"I live very intensely. The team's focus is on the driver, that is very stressful. My life goes by in seconds when I'm driving and I do so much in that short period of time. This is a major challenge. You must do the best you can, all the time, and only then can you be at peace."

The road to peace is a recurring theme with Senna. The son of a wealthy businessman, he is very attached to his family. He always spends the off-season - November to March - in Brazil. "Winning is done thousands of kilometres away from the race track. It's

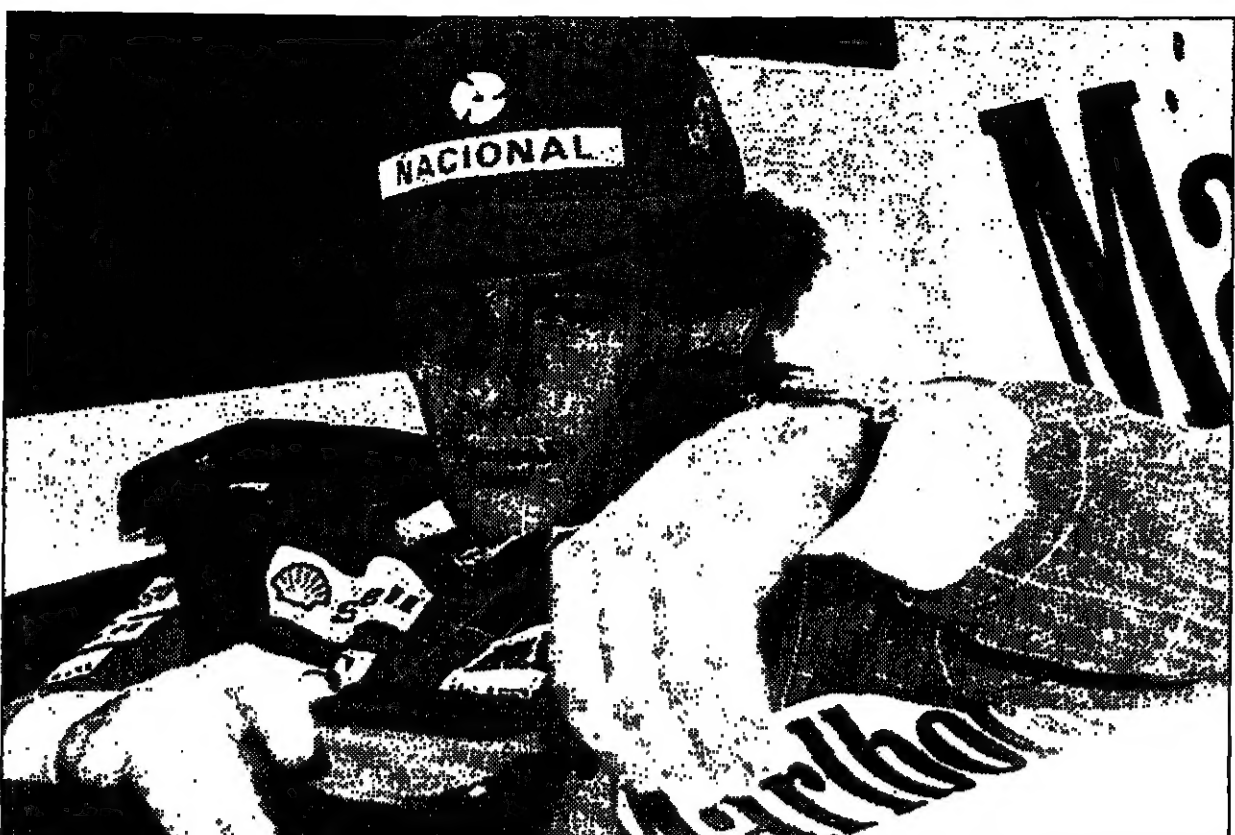
part of a whole. For me, it's also making a dream come true. If it does, I feel I have equilibrium; that gives me strength and that, in turn, brings peace."

Peace is not a word immediately associated with Formula One. Noise, power, fear and madness come more readily to mind. But Senna is adamant that without it, victory is impossible. "We must use what we have inside to our best advantage. Take negative feelings, you would not believe how hard I work at putting these feelings aside. But it is also important to harness them. They are a small but fundamental percentage of the formula for winning. Everything counts."

Senna tries hard to explain how he feels when he drives and does so in religious terms, speaking of "feeling God". "When it rains, and I can't really see, I rely more on my instinct. I feel my way around the race. Sometimes it is so cold in the car, other times the heat is so intense... you have to always look for, and find, something extra."

"Some people will appreciate it; it might help them as it has helped me. There should be respect for what comes from the heart, like friendship. I value it a lot because there is so little of it in Formula One while there is lots of spite - like those who say, because of my beliefs, I consider myself immortal; that I have God on my side."

There is something of the warrior in Senna, a knight or, perhaps, a samurai, with his strict codes of behaviour and intense mental discipline. Such men seek to win in their minds, well before drawing their swords. Just as he does.



Sitting tight: Senna adjusts his mirror while waiting for the start of practice in Monaco yesterday

YACHTING

Conner is beaten by cash

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN SAN DIEGO

NEW Zealand, the America's Cup challenger, skipped on Wednesday by Rod Davis, won the fleet racing round of the world championship and will meet Nippon, from Japan, in the semi-final match race today after Dennis Conner sailed into the final rounds, then talked himself out.

The two Italian yachts, Il Moro di Venezia III, skippered by Paul Cayard, and Il Moro I, sailed by John Kollins, make up the second pairing after an exciting final race saw Conner's American yacht, Stars & Stripes, snatch second place behind Il Moro 3 and finish the series with a 2-1 lead.

Conner pulled out of the semi-final, forfeiting an offer from Bill Koch's team, effectively conceding to lead him equipment. "I'd like to sail, but my first consideration is the overall picture," Conner said. "I can't jeopardise the rig and what few assets I have."

The cash-strapped American skipper was well pleased with his three-week-old yacht, despite racing with second-hand spinnakers. RESULTS: Fourth race, 1-3 Il Moro 3 (US), 2-4 Stars & Stripes (US), 3-5 Il Moro 3 (US), 4-6 Stars & Stripes (US), 5-6 Il Moro 3 (US), 7-8 Il Moro 3 (US), 9-10 Il Moro 3 (US), 11-12 Il Moro 3 (US), 13-14 Il Moro 3 (US), 15-16 Il Moro 3 (US), 17-18 Il Moro 3 (US), 19-20 Il Moro 3 (US), 21-22 Il Moro 3 (US), 23-24 Il Moro 3 (US), 25-26 Il Moro 3 (US), 27-28 Il Moro 3 (US), 29-30 Il Moro 3 (US), 31-32 Il Moro 3 (US), 33-34 Il Moro 3 (US), 35-36 Il Moro 3 (US), 37-38 Il Moro 3 (US), 39-40 Il Moro 3 (US), 41-42 Il Moro 3 (US), 43-44 Il Moro 3 (US), 45-46 Il Moro 3 (US), 47-48 Il Moro 3 (US), 49-50 Il Moro 3 (US), 51-52 Il Moro 3 (US), 53-54 Il Moro 3 (US), 55-56 Il Moro 3 (US), 57-58 Il Moro 3 (US), 59-60 Il Moro 3 (US), 61-62 Il Moro 3 (US), 63-64 Il Moro 3 (US), 65-66 Il Moro 3 (US), 67-68 Il Moro 3 (US), 69-70 Il Moro 3 (US), 71-72 Il Moro 3 (US), 73-74 Il Moro 3 (US), 75-76 Il Moro 3 (US), 77-78 Il Moro 3 (US), 79-80 Il Moro 3 (US), 81-82 Il Moro 3 (US), 83-84 Il Moro 3 (US), 85-86 Il 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SPORT

Shades of diplomacy in Richards's outlook



Richards: peace offering

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

BARELY a week after completing his central role in one of the most acrimonious of all Test match series, Vivian Richards sauntered into London yesterday spreading words of peace and goodwill.

The West Indies captain, whose barbed remarks about the Australia coach, Bobby Simpson, brought the simmering bad feeling in the Caribbean series to the boil, wore the benign smile of a diplomat as his team arrived for its three-month tour, the last in Richards's spectacular career.

Beneath the smile, however, he wore a sullen jacket and a yellow T-shirt which, set next to the team blazer and tie of his manager and vice-captain, acted as just enough of a badge of rebellion to reassure all that, in his fortieth year, Richards is not quite prepared to discard his maverick image and embrace conventionality.

He was unusually bare-headed, both in being hatless and in having given his thinning hair a Hagler-like shave, and had discarded the dark glasses which caused a minor stir when he emerged to the usual snapping of cameras at Heathrow airport.

On being asked by photographers if he would remove his shades, he said he would, so long as they took their pictures standing on their heads. No business resulted.

This proud, prowling lion of a man was, however, in high good humour by the time he settled in his chair in the team's West End hotel and, if he spent a striking amount of time mopping perspiration from his face, this had more to do with the central heating on the first proper day of summer than with any display of the unchecked emotions which have periodically sullied his image.

Only once did Richards lapse into his proclamational

mode, in which for greater emphasis he refers to himself in the third person. Only once did he become animated, and that was to insist that the sensitive issue of slow over-rates is not exclusively a West Indian problem.

The subject on everyone's minds, of course, was the damaging conduct, both on and off the field, which had overshadowed the West Indies series with Australia.

It was plainly on Richards's mind, too, and he seemed anxious to get it off his chest.

"I want to have a nice, peaceful tour," he began, reacting with a sparkle of those piercing eyes to the resultant rumble of laughter. "I want it to start and finish on a wonderful note, so that everyone can be happy. We are loving people," he added, somewhat obscurely, of his players.

If all this sounded a touch too evangelical for the occasion, Richards soon reverted to specifics. "The spirit has always been good when we have played England and I am

sure that will not change.

"This is a place I enjoy because it is the best organised place, where you can play your cricket properly."

"Most of our guys are familiar with England and feel the same way."

The question of why West Indies had come without a specialist slow bowler was one he was happy, ironically, to deflect to his management team. Lance Gibbs, the manager, and David Holford, his assistant and a team selector, were both spin bowlers and

won 103 caps between them; both keenly feel the dearth of their breed but, as Gibbs regretfully said: "Our best bowlers are the fast men, there is no getting away from it."

Richards also passed on a direct question about the atmosphere during the Australian series and Gibbs, having first offered a diplomatic dead-end, could not resist the bait.

"I would prefer to leave that series behind," he began. "All that went on there is history now and I am looking forward to the spirit we always find in England."

Then, unprompted: "It was a hard and bitter fought series. They tried to knock the crown off our heads and failed."

At this, there was a rhythmic tattoo beaten on the table by the knuckles of a smiling Richards.

"Their slogging was the worst thing because it is

something that our fellows don't like at all," Holford added.

"It prevailed right through the series but it is something that doesn't happen in England."

What does happen in England, at least in recent times, is an embarrassing no-contest. The last five such series here have an aggregate score of 15-0 to the West Indies, and Richards was unmistakably confident of prolonging the agony, even with a party of such longevity that up to six may be on their farewell tour.

"Our guys were magnificent against Australia, especially after they had been called has-beens and pensioners," he said, feelingly. "I am ready to stake my claim for being the winners here again."

"But if we lose, one must take defeat in a nice, gentlemanly way. We are here to set an example."

Cup draw, page 38

Clubs will face compensation claims if they switch

League is ready to fight FA's breakaway plan

By PETER BALL

THE Football League began its fightback against the Football Association's proposed breakaway Premier League yesterday by producing those classic incentives, a carrot and a stick. The management committee unanimously agreed that it would fight to preserve the integrity of the 92-club League.

To this end, the League will offer the 22 first division clubs financial incentives to stay within the League structure, but with some element of financial autonomy.

"We believe that we can put together proposals which all clubs in the first division will find advantageous," Arthur Sandford, the League's chief executive, said yesterday. "We have noted all that the FA said on Wednesday about the commercial advantages of their proposals, including a television deal, and we believe it can all be achieved within the structure of the Football League, albeit in altered form. And we can do it without the clear financial disadvantages

of the FA's proposals."

Sandford, however, warned that the compensation the League would demand if clubs broke the League three-year notice requirement in order to join the FA's league for the 1992-3 season would be painful. The FA has insisted that this rule is not enforceable, but the League's legal advice suggests otherwise. The sums will be enormous, "globally we are talking millions," Sandford said.

The management committee's determination to fight cannot be doubted. Although Sir John Smith, of Liverpool, was absent, the other first division members of the committee — Robert Chase, of Norwich City, Doug Ellis, of Aston Villa, and Maxwell Holmes, of Leeds United — all supported the proposal to defend the League.

"The management committee have unanimously agreed that we shall be taking all possible steps to maintain at least a 92-club Football League," Stanford said. "We

shall be taking all possible steps to encourage the FA to enter into meaningful dialogue. At the moment, the FA has said that it is only willing to discuss it if we at first accept the principle of the League, but that is not a position that we can accept."

Twenty interested clubs were yesterday briefed by the Football Association at Villa Park on the requirements they would need to meet if they were to provide one of the venues for the 1996 World Cup finals.

Up to 4,000 Manchester United supporters thought to be planning to travel to next week's European Cup Winners' final in Rotterdam without match tickets may be prevented from entering The Netherlands.

Lenzi's high dive

Minneapolis (Reuters) — Mark Lenzi, of the United States, broke the world record, at the weekend, for the most points on a single dive from a 3-metre springboard at the Phillipa 66 championships. He scored four tens on his last dive, a reverse three-and-a-half tuck, the highest degree of difficulty (3.5) in diving. He totalled 101.85pts on the dive, breaking Greg Louganis's record of 99.00, set in 1983.

Forde moves up

Hugh Forde, the former British super-featherweight boxing champion, makes his first appearance as a lightweight at Dudley Town Hall on May 14.

Aitken Irish final

The Newcastle United captain, Roy Aitken, has joined the Irish League football club, Glenavon, on loan until the end of the season and will be able to play for them in the Irish Cup final in a fortnight's time.

Midnight Saga, trained by Mark Prescott, landed a gamble from 16-1 to 11-4 in the Bassenthwaite Handicap at Carlisle yesterday.



A mighty blow: Botham swings Watkinson for six during his swashbuckling innings against Lancashire

Botham stakes claim for recall

By ALAN LEE

IAN Botham may have left his greatest days in the 1980s but he retains an unerring sense of timing. He scored his first century of the season yesterday, even as West Indies flew into London and the England captain and manager met for preliminary talks on their selection policy for the summer.

Botham scored 104 for Worcestershire against Lancashire at New Road, an innings in adversity after the fall of four early wickets. Now,

despite countless obituaries for his international career, he must be regarded as a serious candidate for inclusion in an under-strength England party, to be chosen next week, for the three Texaco Trophy one-day games against West Indies later this month.

The warrior of 97 Tests, 5,119 runs and 376 wickets has already issued his annual spring-time address, bemoaning the neglect of the selectors and claiming, with some justification, that they have failed to locate an all-rounder to

touch him. Now, if he can convince them that his bowling is in similar order to his batting, and he already has one five-wicket analysis this season, he may have the chance to prove it.

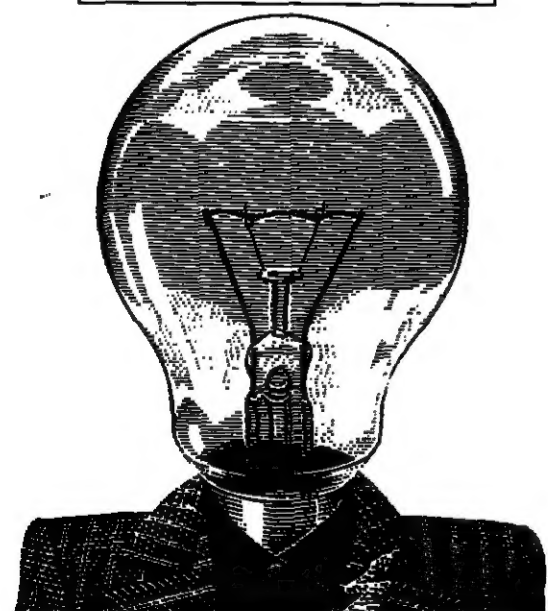
Micky Stewart, the England team manager, was surprised and dismayed yesterday to learn that Chris Lewis, a possible successor to Botham, was yet again inactive through injury. With Angus Fraser, the team's steady bowler, already ruled out of the Texaco games, the bowling is alarm-

ingly thin and Botham's huge experience, and ability to contain, must be considered.

Yesterday's century, scored from 115 balls with a six and 13 fours, was only his second in four championship seasons. Significantly, however, it included a stand of 106 with Graeme Hick, the Zimbabwean now qualified for England and certain to make an immediate debut. It may be a partnership to be resumed.

Champions struggle, page 38

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Stewards uphold Sandown verdict

By RICHARD EVANS

CAHERVILLAHOW yesterday lost an appeal against disqualification in last month's Whitbread Gold Cup after one of the most painstakingly detailed hearings in Jockey Club history.

The three Portman Square stewards went to the extent of examining scale drawings of the Sandown Park hill, and took evidence from a land surveyor, before backing the local stewards' decision to promote Docklands Express to first place.

The disciplinary committee, watched video recordings of the race from head-on, side-on and behind, and, most significantly, viewed Channel 4 coverage of the finish from the inside of the course, which was not available to the Sandown stewards.

"Having considered the evidence the committee found

that, after jumping the final fence, Cahervillahow had veered towards his right, causing interference to Docklands Express. The committee considered the interference to be accidental but to have improved Cahervillahow's placing. They therefore dismissed the appeal and confirmed the placing of Docklands Express first and Cahervillahow second," the Jockey Club statement said.

Kim Bailey, trainer of Docklands Express, emerged from the three-and-a-half hour hearing to say: "It was a brave decision and a very fair decision. There was undoubtedly interference and the Channel 4 video does show that Docklands Express gets his knee kicked by Cahervillahow."

Munro's switch, page 37

Troke in line for a medal

COPENHAGEN — Helen Troke a world badminton bronze medal-winner eight years ago, came within one victory of another medal when a hard-earned 11-5, 4-11, 11-7 victory over the Malaysian, Lee Wai Leng, took her to the quarter-finals of the world championships yesterday (Richard Eaton writes).

Troke finished with a thigh strain which could hinder her prospects today against Sarwendah Kusumawardhani, the World Cup winner from Indonesia. But Troke is nothing if not a fighter, as she showed after having her request for a change of shuttles rejected in the second game.

Darren Hall, England's other former European champion, went down to a surprise 15-3, 15-3 loss to Andrei Antropov.

Results, page 39

Senna surges to record time

FROM NORMAN HOWELL IN MONACO

AYRTON Senna drove another masterful last lap here yesterday, obliterating the record time he set last year and taking the provisional overnight pole position for the Monaco Formula One grand prix on Sunday.

The only driver able to keep in touch with the Brazilian, albeit the best part of a second slower, was Gerhard Berger, who was driving the second, less powerful McLaren-Honda. Behind the world champion and his Austrian team-mate, Riccardo Patrese led the chase.

Nigel Mansell did not have a good day. The overcast sky and the blustery weather might have made him feel as if he was on the Isle of Man, where he lives, but by the end of the official qualifying session, his Williams was sandwiched in eighth place

between the two Dallaras of J.J. Lehto and Emanuele Pirro.

Martin Brundle also had his problems. He was disqualified for ignoring a red light in the pits.

PRACTICE TIMES: 1. A Senna (McLaren), 1:23.500 (av speed 148.511km/h); 2. G Berger (Ferrari), 1:24.222; 3. R Patrese (Williams), 1:24.257; 4. A Prost (Ferrari), 1:24.478; 5. M Piquet (Benetton), 1:24.518; 6. J Lehto (Pescarolo), 1:24.527; 7. J Lehto (Pescarolo), 1:24.527; 8. M Mansell (Williams), 1:24.527; 9. E Pironi (Dallara), 1:24.527; 10. S Brundle (Williams), 1:24.527; 11. R Moreno (Benetton), 1:24.527; 12. P Martini (Pescarolo), 1:24.527; 13. A de Cesaris (Pescarolo), 1:24.527; 14. S Nakajima (Ligier), 1:24.527; 15. G Marchioni (Ligier), 1:24.527; 16. B Gache (Ligier), 1:24.527; 17. T Boutsen (Ligier), 1:24.527; 18. E Comas (Pescarolo), 1:24.527; 19. M Piquet (Benetton), 1:24.527; 20. J Agnew (Ligier), 1:24.527; 21. J Agnew (Ligier), 1:24.527; 22. J Agnew (Ligier), 1:24.527; 23. J Agnew (Ligier), 1:24.527; 24. J Agnew (Ligier), 1:24.527; 25. J Agnew (Ligier), 1:24.527; 26. J Agnew (Ligier), 1:24.527; 27. J Agnew (Ligier), 1:24.527; 28. J Agnew (Ligier), 1:24.527; 29. J Agnew (Ligier), 1:24.527; 30. J Agnew (Ligier), 1:24.527.

Madrid sees return of magic

FROM MITCHELL PLATT
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
MADRID

SEVERIANO Ballesteros yesterday took the Princes Spanish golf open by the scruff of the neck with a first round of 63 here on the Club de Campo course, which must rank as one of the finest performances of his career.

He gathered seven birdies and one eagle to take a commanding five-shot lead ahead of Steven Bottomley, Vijay Singh, of Fiji, and Eduardo Romero, of Argentina.

Ballesteros, whose win in Japan last Sunday was his first in 14 months, started at the 10th, and holed pums of 33 feet at the 12th and 14 feet at the 14th for birdies.

Out in 32, he kept his score intact by getting up and down at both the 1st and 2nd. A pinch to within four feet brought another birdie at the 4th — his 13th — and he forged clear of the field with a marvellous eagle-birdie-birdie finish.

Ballesteros reached the 7th green with a prodigious drive with the new Dunlop metal driver which he obtained in Japan last week and a three-wood. The driver has only seven degrees of loft, compared to the nine degrees which is his norm.

It is on the greens, however, where Ballesteros has needed to restore his confidence. "I did not have one three-putt in Japan last week," Ballesteros said. "Today, I holed everything I looked at. I lost my confidence when I missed the short putt at the first hole of the play-off for the 1987 Masters. Now it is back. I had only twenty four putts today. There is no other way to shoot a 63. If you know of one, then please tell me. The impulse, however, as one can sense, is back."

He remains cautious, stressing that one win in Japan and one round in his capital, is insufficient evidence to assume he will go on to win this week and to add to his five major championship triumphs. It was the only thing Ballesteros got wrong on a glorious day. There is no need for caution.

LEADING FIRST ROUND SCORES (EB and 18 holes, 72 strokes): 63 S Ballesteros (ESP), 64 Steven Bottomley (GB), 65 Vijay Singh (FIJ), 66 Eduardo Romero (ARG), 67 J Lehto (FIN), 68 R Moreno (ESP), 69 M Piquet (ITA), 70 G Berger (AUT), 71 J Agnew (GB), 72 J Agnew (GB), 73 J Agnew (GB), 74 J Agnew (GB), 75 J Agnew (GB), 76 J Agnew (GB), 77 J Agnew (GB), 78 J Agnew (GB), 79 J Agnew (GB), 80 J Agnew (GB).

TOMORROW

The Times presents the opportunity to win a special weekend in London next month: tickets for two people to the semi-finals and final of the Stella Artois tennis tournament at Queen's, a West End show and overnight accommodation at a top-class hotel.

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